completed as independent work by learners.

[005] An effective e-learning lesson delivery platform, therefore, should support implementation of instructional plans in four important ways. First, an effective e-learning lesson delivery platform should provide a diverse group of learning activities organized according to an instructional plan that identifies one or more activities for use in a guided environment and one or more for assignment as independent work. Second, a lesson delivery platform should support mentors' implementation of instructional plans by displaying and providing convenient access to those learning activities, and related resources, for use in guided or group instruction environments. Third, a lesson delivery platform should allow mentors to easily assign activities to learners for completion as independent work and allow mentors to monitor learner participation and performance in assigned independent work. Fourth, a lesson delivery platform should support individual learners' educational development through individual work by displaying and providing convenient access to those learning activities assigned to them as independent work.

[006] Increasingly, technology offers new opportunities to create powerful learning tools. For example, multimedia technology provides new ways to support effective teaching by facilitating mentors' implementation of instructional plans in guided or group environments and by facilitating mentors' interaction with learners through assignment of independent learning activities. In such multimedia-powered environments, well-drafted instructional plans could come to life by providing mentors with access to appropriate learning activities for display in guided environments and by providing learners with access to appropriate learning activities assigned to them for completion independently. Despite these potentials, current e-learning lesson delivery platforms do not achieve these ideals.

[007] Disclosed herein, in certain embodiments, are e-learning lesson delivery platforms comprising: a digital processing device that is optionally connected to a computer network, wherein said processing device comprises an operating system configured to perform executable instructions; and a computer program, provided to said digital processing device, including executable instructions that create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises: a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest or expertise~~subject~~, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work; a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a

guided environment, wherein said module is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan; a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or

more learners, wherein said module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners is only accessible by a mentor and allows the mentor to sort, search or filter learning activities by one or more of: area of skill, interest, or expertise or educational objective, name, length, or difficulty to assign learning activities for the one or more learners; and a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is accessible by a mentor or a learner. In some embodiments, the plurality of learning activities includes one or more activities selected from: art, articles, books, brainstorms, collaborations, compositions, demonstrations, e-books, essays, examinations, games, group activities, journals, laboratory experiments, lectures, multi-player games, music, problem sets, puzzles, quizzes, reading assignments, role-plays, simulations, songs, videos, and worksheets. In some embodiments, the software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment to one learner, to a plurality of learners, or to a defined group of learners. In further embodiments, the defined group of learners is a class of learners. In some embodiments, the said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows preview of independent activities to learners. In some embodiments, the software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment of any activity in said plurality of activities. In other embodiments, the said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment of only those activities so identified by said instructional plan. In some embodiments, the software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows configuration of the amount of time each activity is available to said module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities. In some embodiments, the software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows configuration of due dates and overdue dates for each activity to be indicated by said module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities. In some embodiments, the independent learning activities are homework. In some embodiments, the software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities comprises one or more of: a mobile application, a standalone application, or a web browser plug-in, add-in, add-on, toolbar, or extension. In some embodiments, the software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities generates an electronic communication for one or more learners, wherein said communication is selected from: email, web mail, SMS, MMS, microblog post, social network post, instant message, or voice mail. In some embodiments, the software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities allows sorting, organizing, or filtering activities by one or more of: assigning

mentor, assignment date, due date, subject, and type of activity. In some embodiments, the system further comprises a software module for monitoring learner progress, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor. In further embodiments, the software module for monitoring learner progress identifies learning activities assigned as independent work and allows monitoring of

independent activities separately from other activities. In further embodiments, the software module for monitoring learner progress generates a printable report.

[008] Also disclosed herein, in certain embodiments, are non-transitory computer readable media encoded with a computer program including instructions executable by the operating system of a digital processing device, wherein said instructions create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises: a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one ~~subject~~area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work; a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan; a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor and allows the mentor to sort, search, or filter learning activities by one or more of: area of skill, interest, or expertise, educational objective, name, length, or difficulty to assign learning activities appropriate for the one or more learners; and a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities is accessible by a mentor or a learner. In some embodiments, the system further comprises a software module for monitoring learner progress, wherein said module is only accessible from a mentor account.

[009] Also disclosed herein, in certain embodiments, are computer-implemented methods for delivering e-learning lessons, comprising the step of providing executable instructions to a digital processing device comprising an operating system configured to perform executable instructions, to create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises: a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of sill, interest, or expertise~~subject~~, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work; a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan; a software module for assigning said

one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor; and a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners is only accessible by a mentor and allows the mentor to sort, search or filter learning activities by one or more of: area of skill, interest, or expertise, educational objective, name, length, or difficulty to assign learning activities appropriate for the one more ~~or a~~ learners. In some embodiments, the software modules for displaying and providing access to one or more learning activities assigned as independent work , wherein said module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is accessible by the mentor or a learner. In some embodiments, the software modules for displaying and providing access to one or more learning activities in a guided environment and assigning one or more learning activities as independent work are part of a school-based system adapted for one or more teachers and said

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An e-learning lesson delivery platform comprising:

(a) a digital processing device that is optionally connected to a computer network, wherein said processing device comprises an operating system configured to perform executable instructions; and

(b) a computer program, provided to said digital processing device, including executable instructions that create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises:

i. a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work;

ii. a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan;

iii. a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor; and

iv. a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module is accessible by a mentor or a learner.

2. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said plurality of learning activities includes one or more activities selected from: art, articles, books, brainstorms, collaborations, compositions, demonstrations, e-books, essays, examinations, games, group activities, journals, laboratory experiments, lectures, multi-player games, music, problem sets, puzzles, quizzes, reading assignments, role-plays, simulations, songs, videos, and worksheets.

3. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment to one learner, to a plurality of learners, or to a defined group of learners.

4. The e-learning platform of claim 3, wherein said defined group of learners is a class of learners.

5. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows preview of independent activities to learners.

6. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment of any activity in said plurality of activities.

7. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment of only those activities so identified by said instructional plan.

8. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said independent learning activities are homework.

9. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows configuration of the amount of time each activity is available to said module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities.

10. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows configuration of due dates and overdue dates for each activity to be indicated by said module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities.

11. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities comprises one or more of: a mobile application, a standalone application, or a web browser plug-in, add-in, add-on, toolbar, or extension.

12. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities generates an electronic communication for one or more learners, wherein said communication is selected from: email, web mail, SMS, MMS, microblog post, social network post, instant message, or voice mail.

13. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities allows sorting, organizing, or filtering activities by one or more of: assigning mentor, assignment date, due date, subject, and type of activity.

14. The e-learning platform of claim 1, further comprising a software module for monitoring learner progress, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor.

15. The e-learning platform of claim 14, wherein said software module for monitoring learner progress identifies learning activities assigned as independent work and allows monitoring of independent activities separately from other activities.

16. The e-learning platform of claim 14, wherein said software module for monitoring learner progress generates a printable report.

17. Non-transitory computer readable media encoded with a computer program including instructions executable by the operating system of a digital processing device, wherein said instructions create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises:

i. a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work;

ii. a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan;

iii. a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor; and

iv. a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module is accessible by a mentor or a learner.

18. The lesson delivery server of claim 17, further comprising a software module for monitoring learner progress, wherein said module is only accessible from a mentor account.

19. A computer-implemented method for delivering e-learning lessons, comprising the step of:

(a) providing executable instructions to a digital processing device comprising an operating system configured to perform executable instructions, to create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises:

i. a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work;

ii. a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan;

iii. a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor; and

iv. a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module is accessible by a mentor or a learner.

20. The e-learning lesson delivery method of claim 19, wherein said software modules for displaying and providing access to one or more learning activities in a guided environment and assigning one or more learning activities as independent work are part of a school-based system adapted for one or more teachers and said software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is part of a home-based system adapted for one or more students.

What is claimed is:

1. An e-learning lesson delivery platform comprising:

(a) a digital processing device that is optionally connected to a computer network, wherein said processing device comprises an operating system configured to perform executable instructions; and

(b) a computer program, provided to said digital processing device, including executable instructions that create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises:

i. a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work;

ii. a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan;

iii. a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners is only accessible by the mentor and allows the mentor to sort, search, or filter learning activities by one or more of: area of skill, interest, or expertise, educational objective, name, length, or difficulty to assign learning activities appropriate for the one or more learners; and

iv. a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is accessible by the mentor or a learner.

2. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said plurality of learning activities includes one or more activities selected from: art, articles, books, brainstorms, collaborations, compositions, demonstrations, e-books, essays, examinations, games, group activities,

journals, laboratory experiments, lectures, multi-player games, music, problem sets, puzzles, quizzes, reading assignments, role-plays, simulations, songs, videos, and worksheets.

3. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment to one learner, to a plurality of learners, or to a defined group of learners.

4. The e-learning platform of claim 3, wherein said defined group of learners is a class of learners.

5. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows preview of independent activities to learners.

6. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment of any activity in said plurality of activities.

7. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows assignment of only those activities so identified by said instructional plan.

8. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said independent learning activities are homework.

9. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows configuration of the amount of time each activity is available to said module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities.

10. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for assigning one or more learning activities as independent work allows configuration of due dates and overdue dates for each activity to be indicated by said module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities.

11. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities comprises one or more of: a mobile application, a standalone application, or a web browser plug-in, add-in, add-on, toolbar, or extension.

12. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities generates an electronic communication for one or more learners, wherein said communication is selected from: email, web mail, SMS, MMS, microblog post, social network post, instant message, or voice mail.

13. The e-learning platform of claim 1, wherein said software module for displaying and providing access to independent learning activities allows sorting, organizing, or filtering activities by one or more of: assigning mentor, assignment date, due date, subject, and type of activity.

14. The e-learning platform of claim 1, further comprising a software module for monitoring learner progress, wherein said module is only accessible by a mentor.

15. The e-learning platform of claim 14, wherein said software module for monitoring learner progress identifies learning activities assigned as independent work and allows monitoring of independent activities separately from other activities.

16. The e-learning platform of claim 14, wherein said software module for monitoring learner progress generates a printable report.

17. Computer readable media encoded with a computer program including instructions executable by the operating system of a digital processing device, wherein said instructions create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises:
(a) a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work;
(b) a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan;
(c) a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners is only accessible by the mentor and allows the mentor to sort, search, or filter learning activities by one or more of: area of skill, interest, or expertise, educational objective, name, length, or difficulty to assign learning activities appropriate for the one or more learners; and
(d) a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is accessible by the mentor or a learner.

18. The lesson delivery server of claim 17, further comprising a software module for monitoring learner progress, wherein said module is only accessible from a mentor account.

19. A computer-implemented method for delivering e-learning lessons, comprising:
providing executable instructions to a digital processing device comprising an operating system configured to perform executable instructions, to create a lesson delivery server, wherein said server comprises:

(a) a plurality of learning activities, wherein said activities are organized according to an instructional plan designed to accomplish one or more educational objectives in at least one area of skill, interest, or expertise, wherein said plan identifies one or more learning activities for use in a guided environment and identifies one or more learning activities for assignment as independent work;

(b) a software module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to said one or more learning activities in a guided environment is adapted to support a mentor's implementation of said instructional plan;

(c) a software module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners, wherein said module for assigning said one or more learning activities as independent work to one or more learners is only accessible by the mentor and allows the mentor to sort, search, or filter learning activities by one or more of: area of skill, interest, or expertise, educational objective, name, length, or difficulty to assign learning activities appropriate for the one or more learners; and

(d) a software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work, wherein said module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is accessible by the mentor or a learner.

20. The e-learning lesson delivery method of claim 19, wherein said software modules for displaying and providing access to one or more learning activities in a guided environment and assigning one or more learning activities as independent work are part of a school-based system adapted for one or more teachers and said software module for displaying and providing access to learning activities assigned as independent work is part of a home-based system adapted for one or more students.