

Turfgrass Information Center

2013 Annual Report



Highlights

910,000+ Searches • 58% Linked to Full-Text • 20,300+ New Records

About 10 Million PDFs Displayed of TIC-Hosted Materials • 74 Academic Subscribers Worldwide

Overview of the Turfgrass Information Center

The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) is a specialized unit at the Michigan State University Libraries. It contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. The Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF) now has over 230,000+ records (with over 58% linked to the full-text of the item), and is the online discovery device for information on turfgrass whether it is in print, electronic, or another format.

TIC was created in 1983 by an association between MSU Libraries and the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section Research Program. Its actual roots began in the 1960s when an MSU initiative to collect turfgrass publications was aided by the donation of the personal collection of pioneering turf agronomist O.J. Noer, through the O.J. Noer Foundation.

The Center has four primary functions:

- Collect and preserve published and unpublished materials relating to turfgrass science, culture, and the management of turfgrass-based facilities, including golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod farms, roadsides, institutional grounds, and other managed landscapes.
- Provide precise and structured online access to TIC collections, as well as other print and electronic turfgrass-related resources, via the TGIF database.
- Assist users of the collection and online system, by helping them to identify and locate materials that meet their needs.
- Provide user workspace and cooperative electronic infrastructure to support collaborative turfgrass scholarship.

For more information about the Turfgrass Information Center, see: <http://tic.msu.edu>

TIC Endowment

The TIC Endowment will help guarantee the financial resources needed to ensure the ongoing operation of the Turfgrass Information Center. The continuation of the Center and the production of TGIF are critical because:

- TIC activities continue a 40+ year effort to collect, inventory, and provide access to the literature of turf science and turf culture, with TGIF serving as the only bibliographic database in the world that exclusively targets these areas.
- TIC directly supports turfgrass research. Many turfgrass investigators depend on TGIF as their primary resource for identifying turf-related literature, both past and present.
- TIC and TGIF directly support improved turf education, including certificate, technical, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs for practitioners such as golf course superintendents and sports turf managers.
- TGIF provides access to more comprehensive turf-related information sources, which translates to improved management of turf facilities including athletic fields, golf courses, and other managed landscapes.

To find out how you can help support the TIC, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/endowment.html>

TGIF, the Database

TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive records for all types of works related to turfgrass culture. The ultimate goal of TGIF is to provide access to all published materials reporting on any aspect of turfgrass and its maintenance, regardless of age, language, or format. Basic search is the most popular – simply enter the most important words of your desired search, receive results based on your keywords, and explore thousands of records for articles, books, fact sheets, and more online.

To learn more about searching the database, see:

<http://tic.msu.edu/search.html>



Database Construction

The Turfgrass Information Center creates Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database records for a wide range of materials including periodical articles, monographs (book-like items), fact sheets and pamphlets, images, podcasts and web documents. The following scope is used to help determine item selection to be entered into TGIF:

- Description and biology of turfgrass species, cultivars, pests, weeds, and related organisms
- Turf culture methods and techniques
- Turf care equipment and equipment maintenance
- Golf and sports facility maintenance, architecture, design and industry trends
- Turfgrass breeding and improvement
- Turfgrass seed and sod production, installation, maintenance and industry trends
- Regulatory and political aspects of turf culture
- Turfgrass water use
- Lawn and landscape management industry trends
- Turf user/turf manager relations
- Turf-related business management
- Profiles of turf-related businesses and facilities
- Biography of turfgrass researchers and professionals
- The lawn in popular culture
- Environmental, social and historical aspects of turf culture
- Turfgrass as a land use form

Descriptive records are the “base record” and contain general citation information like title, source, author, pagination, year, and any URL to the item.

After the descriptive record stage, items are moved to the indexing stage. Here, items are manually reviewed and keywords are assigned using a controlled vocabulary, the Turfgrass Thesaurus. As the indexing stage requires an understanding of the content of the item, this stage requires greater time to complete.

Records with URLs are considered to have the full-text available. Records with the text of the item contained in the TGIF record are considered full-text searchable, since that text can be searched in TGIF directly. For full-text searchable records, there are two sources: periodicals which have been digitized by TIC and web source materials. Of the nearly 54,000 records with the text of the item contained in the TGIF record, 90% come from periodicals digitized by TIC.

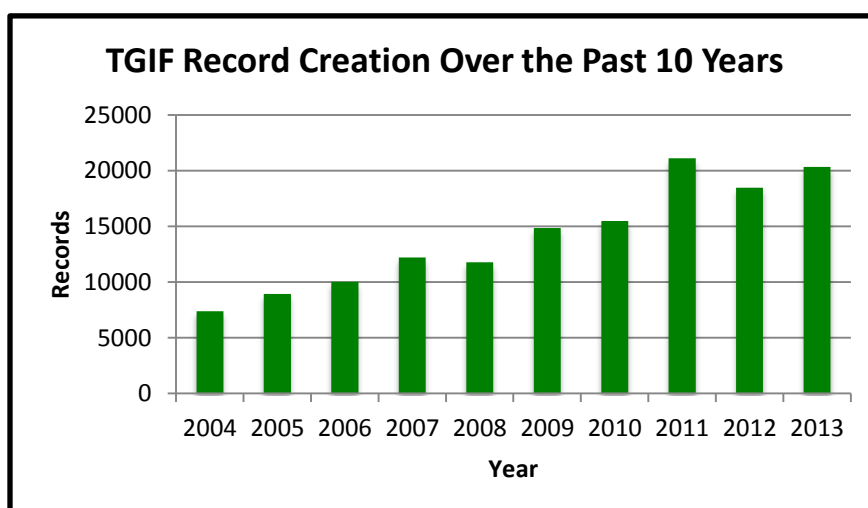
TGIF Summary Construction Statistics

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
New records created	20,355	18,548	21,193	15,618	15,049	11,749	12,259	9,732
Toro Foundation subset	-	-	-	-	-	2,635	2,668	2,633
Issues closed ¹	8,813	3,752	2,437	2,717	4,000	1,483	1,782	2,351
Zero-hit issues ²	4,942	1,533	663	912	1,245	518	769	633
Records modified in current year, but created previously ³	51,177	24,848	30,732	17,719	42,034	34,659	20,388	18,440
% Full-text	58%	53%	46%	44%	41%	36%	33%	24%
Total records in database	231,831	211,941	193,607	172,589	157,530	142,481	130,732	118,473

1 - The issues closed are periodical issues which have had the descriptive record, indexing, and abstracting completed on all articles selected for inclusion in TGIF.

2 - The zero-hit issues are periodical issues which were reviewed but no articles were selected for inclusion in TGIF.

3 - The records modified in the current year are records that were edited or enhanced.



Snapshot Status of TGIF

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Descriptive Records	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Abstracted Records	48%	50%	52%	56%	57%
Indexed Records	54%	57%	60%	65%	69%
Indexed and Abstracted Records	44%	47%	49%	53%	55%
Full-text Available Records	58%	53%	46%	44%	42%
Full-text Searchable Records	23%	25%	22%	22%	21%
Full-text Available, Indexed, and Abstracted Records	25%	25%	24%	25%	25%
Full-text Available, Indexed, Abstracted Records, and Full-text Searchable Records	12%	13%	14%	14%	13%

Characterizing the Full-Text Available Content within TGIF

2013	<p>58% Records with full-text availability 4% Records with full-text availability that may have secondary access restrictions</p> <p>36% Records with full-text availability provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 13% Records with restricted access but available to all TGIF users</p> <p>22% Records with full-text not provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 14% links to periodicals articles 2% links to book-like items 6% remaining links. These are to a variety of materials, including blueprints, databases, images, judgments, online presentations, patents, podcasts, and slide sets</p>
2012	<p>53% Records with full-text availability 4% Records with full-text availability that may have secondary access restrictions</p> <p>31% Records with full-text availability provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 13% Records with restricted access but available to all TGIF users</p> <p>21% Records with full-text not provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 12% links to periodicals articles 2% links to book-like items 7% remaining links. These are to a variety of materials, including blueprints, databases, images, judgments, online presentations, patents, podcasts, and slide sets</p>
2011	<p>46% Records with full-text availability 4% Records with full-text availability that may have secondary access restrictions</p> <p>25% Records with full-text availability provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 14% Records with restricted access but available to all TGIF users</p> <p>21% Records with full-text not provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 12% links to periodicals articles 2% links to book-like items 7% remaining links. These are to a variety of materials, including blueprints, databases, images, judgments, online presentations, patents, podcasts, and slide sets</p>

TIC Use and Users

TIC and TGIF Summary Use Statistics

TGIF Search Statistics	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total TGIF Searches	113,601	118,357	115,183	127,422	114,518	104,749	84,957	68,640	57,860	46,402
TIC-hosted Electronic Resources Searches (excluding Browsing)	14,548	16,940	20,444	20,313	20,949	19,902	17,974	16,490	18,126	10,803
Fastlinks	783,918	966,225	1,180,572	1,166,399	1,253,491	776,007	248,976	186,198	76,789	18,905
Total Searches and Fastlinks	912,067	1,101,522	1,316,119	1,314,134	1,388,958	900,658	351,907	271,328	152,775	76,110

TIC-Hosted Electronic Resources Use, Including Browsing	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
# of Resources	35	31	31	23	15	10
PDF Views	9,699,200	10,083,370	5,671,629	3,895,237	3,607,201	2,462,361

Users of the Turfgrass Information File

Several “routes” to TGIF exist for various types of database users:

- Contributing Cooperators with Blanket-Access agreements exist for 12 different organizations and associations, allowing members to access TGIF from the member-only section of the organization’s website.
- Academic Institutions with Campus-Wide Access, representing 40 states in the USA, 4 Canadian provinces, and 6 other countries. A Trial Access arrangement is available for qualifying, interested institutions.
- Corporations with Blanket-Access, allowing several turfgrass industry corporations ongoing access to TGIF for their research, technical, regulatory, or product support staff, via their own intranets.
- Annual Subscribers with their own personal logon can be found on 6 continents.

More information about current user groups can be found at: <http://turfweb.lib.msu.edu/starweb/login.htm> ,
or for information regarding subscriptions, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/subscribe.html>

Highlights of Efforts for Cooperators

Digitization

Access to full-text research reports or other management content is a serious challenge for turf professionals, as most do not live next to a research library; however, this is changing. The Turfgrass Information File, originally conceived to index and abstract the literature of turfgrass, has taken dramatic steps to increase retrievability for users to directly access the full-text of identified articles and other items of interest—over 58% of TGIF records now link in this way!

New Electronic Resources in 2013: <i>Greenkeeper International, TURFAX, Turfgrass Trends</i>	Electronic Resources Currently Under Construction: <i>The Florida Green, Golf Course Industry, Landscape Management, Sports Turf Manager</i>
Upcoming Electronic Resources: <i>The Green Sheet, Lawn Care Industry, Lawn & Landscape, Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day, Noer/Milorganite® Image Collection, The Proceedings of the Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents, Turfgrass Matters</i>	

For a complete list of TIC-hosted full-text resources, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/pubjrn/browse.htm>

Collections

O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection

Beginning with the arrival of portions of the personal collection of O.J. Noer in 1968 (transferred to MSU via the O.J. Noer Research Foundation), the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection has continued as the strongest publicly accessible library of materials relating to turf science and culture in the world. The Noer Foundation continues to support Noer Collection development and the TIC Endowment Campaign. Our thanks for their continued vision and support!

Throughout 2013, donations and new acquisitions continued to build the Noer Collection. Newly-published turfgrass-related materials, as well as all identified, available, and affordable historic turf materials are purchased by the MSU Libraries on an ongoing basis, if publishers, authors, or interested third parties do not otherwise donate them to the Collection. TIC would, of course, prefer items to be donated in order to use resources to acquire scarce materials for the collection.

To learn more about some historic Noer Collection acquisitions in 2013, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOEROLDBUYS13>

Most notable among these is:

- Cunningham, S.A. and George D. Leavens 1914. *Lawns, Golf Courses, Polo Fields, Turf Courts, and How to Treat Them*. New York: Coe-Mortimer.
See: <http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?recno=33166>. This early survey, while having commercial overtones associated with Coe-Mortimer's lawn fertilizer series, still contains some interesting and more wide-ranging observations on equipment, establishment, and cultural practices.

For a sample set of 2013 regular Noer Collection acquisitions, see:






<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOERNEWBUYS13>

For more about the Noer Collection see: <http://tic.msu.edu/noer.html>

James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection

Texas A&M Professor Emeritus James B Beard donated a significant portion of his private collection of turfgrass materials to the Michigan State University Libraries in 2003. It forms a distinctive entity within the Turfgrass Information Center that had its origins in Beard's research while he served on the faculty at Michigan State University from 1961 to 1975. Since no significant body of turf materials existed in any university library, he recognized both the need for and the opportunity to build a literature collection in support of turf science, research, and teaching. Thus his involvement was critical to both the Noer Collection and his own. During 2013, Dr. Beard continued to transfer materials, including 411 periodicals and monographs. Other individuals have likewise contributed materials this past year directly to us to add to the Beard Collection, including Mike Bavier and David Gilstrap.

For more information about the Beard Collection, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/beard.html>

				
Cliff Haka Director of MSU Libraries 517.355.2341 haka @mail.lib.msu.edu	Shawn Nicholson Associate Director of Digital Information 517.884.6448 nicho147 @mail.lib.msu.edu	Pete Cookingham Head of Turfgrass Information Center 517.884.1950 cooking1 @mail.lib.msu.edu	Michael Schury TIC Library Assistant 517.884.1952 schurymi @mail.lib.msu.edu	Elisabeth Mabie TIC Library Assistant 517.884.4043 mabieeli @mail.lib.msu.edu

Mailing Address:
Turfgrass Information Center
Michigan State University Libraries
366 W. Circle Drive W301
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048 USA



Web: <http://tic.msu.edu>
Voice: (517) 353-7209
US and Canada Voice: 1-800-446-TGIF
Fax: (517) 353-1975
Email: tgif@msu.edu



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