

# Turfgrass Information Center

## 2016 Annual Report

---



[tic.msu.edu](http://tic.msu.edu)

### Highlights

**92,000+ Searches • 61% Linked to Full-Text • 11,000+ New Records • 11,100+ Records Indexed**  
**80 Academic Consortium Members Worldwide • 62% of TGIF Records Digitally Secured**

### 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. At the end of 2016, the Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF) had over 274,000+ records (with over 61% 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 the 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- Collect and preserve published and unpublished materials relating to turfgrass science, culture, and the management of turfgrass-based facilities, including golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod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.
- Assist users of the collection and online system by helping them to identify and locate materials that meet their needs.
- Provide a physical user workspace and cooperative electronic infrastructure in support of 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 50+ 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. Most 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>

## TGIF, the Database

TGIF provides enhanced citation 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>



## 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 for entry into TGIF:

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

## TGIF Summary Construction Statistics

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
New records created	11,091	14,669	17,290	20,355	18,548	21,193	15,618	15,049
Pre-1984 records subset	1,440	3,663	4,905	5,955	4,580	12,573	2,639	3,320
Issues closed <sup>1</sup>	2,760	6,608	8,992	8,813	3,752	2,437	2,717	4,000
Zero-hit issues <sup>2</sup>	1,773	4,103	5,362	4,942	1,533	663	912	1,245
Previously created records modified in current year <sup>3</sup>	41,590	65,743	41,906	51,177	24,848	30,732	17,719	42,034
% Full-text	61%	60%	58%	58%	53%	46%	44%	41%
Records indexed	11,147	11,169	15,400	4,577	3,368	3,859	5,243	6,015
Total records in database	274,881	263,790	249,121	231,831	211,941	193,607	172,589	157,530

<sup>1</sup> The issues closed are periodical issues that have had the descriptive record, indexing, and abstracting completed on all articles selected for inclusion in TGIF.

<sup>2</sup> The zero-hit issues are periodical issues that were reviewed but no articles were selected for inclusion in TGIF.

<sup>3</sup> The records modified in the current year are records that were edited or enhanced.

## Snapshot Status of TGIF

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Descriptive Records	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Abstracted Records	44%	44%	46%	48%	50%
Indexed Records	59%	57%	56%	54%	57%
Indexed and Abstracted Records	38%	39%	41%	44%	47%
Full-text Available Records	61%	60%	59%	58%	53%
Full-text Searchable Records	20%	21%	22%	23%	25%
Full-text Available, Indexed, and Abstracted Records	25%	25%	24%	25%	25%
Full-text Available, Indexed, Abstracted Records, and Full-text Searchable Records	10%	10%	11%	12%	13%

Descriptive records are the “base record” and contain general citation information like title, source, author, pagination, year, and any links to the item. After the descriptive record stage, items move 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 URL links are considered to have the full-text available. Records with the text of the item contained within the TGIF record are considered full-text searchable, since that text can be searched in TGIF directly. There are nearly 55,000 full-text searchable records within TGIF!

## Characterizing the Full-Text Available Content within TGIF in 2016

**61% Records with full-text availability** (6% that may have secondary access restrictions)  
**36% Records with full-text availability provided through MSU Libraries' efforts** (11% with restricted access)  
**25% Records with full-text not provided through MSU Libraries' efforts**  
 18% links to periodicals articles  
 2% links to book-like items  
 5% remaining links. These are to a variety of materials, including blueprints, videos, images, judgments, online presentations, patents, podcasts, and slide sets

## Digital Curation

Since May of 2014, TIC has been working to ensure the ongoing preservation of vital turfgrass resources by scanning or saving digital copies of items described in the TGIF database. As we do not have copyright permissions for many of these items, our digital archive is access-restricted and not available to the public through TGIF or the Web. At the end of 2016, 62% of items with TGIF records have been digitally secured.

## TIC Use and Users

### TIC and TGIF Summary Use Statistics

TGIF Search Statistics	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total TGIF Searches	92,199	94,888	81,881	113,601	118,357	115,183
TIC-hosted Electronic Resources Searches (excluding Browsing)	9,498	13,011	13,695	14,548	16,940	20,444
Fastlinks	1,133,956	361,393	159,701	783,918	966,225	1,180,572
Total Searches and Fastlinks	1,235,726	469,386	255,418	912,067	1,101,522	1,316,119

TIC-Hosted Electronic Resources Use, Including Browsing	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
PDF Views	18,000,000+	16,100,000+	9,600,000+	10,000,00+	5,600,000+

## 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, plus all State of Michigan residents, allowing members to access TGIF from the member-only section of the organization’s website.
- Academic Consortium Members with Campus-Wide Access, representing 40 states in the USA, 4 Canadian provinces, and 7 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 all over the world.

More information about current user groups can be found at: <http://tic.msu.edu/tgif>, or for information regarding subscriptions, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/subscribe>

## Highlights of Efforts for Cooperators

### Digitization

Access to full-text research reports or other management content is a serious challenge for turf professionals. The Turfgrass Information File, originally conceived to index and abstract the literature of turfgrass, has taken dramatic steps to increase retrievability so users may directly access the full-text of identified articles and other items of interest—over 61% of TGIF records now link in this way!

<p><b>New Electronic Resources in 2016:</b></p> <p><i>Lawn Care Industry; Lawn &amp; Landscape</i></p>	<p><b>Electronic Resources Currently Under Construction:</b></p> <p><i>Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day</i></p>
<p><b>Upcoming Electronic Resources:</b></p> <p><i>Australian Turfgrass Management Journal; The Green Sheet; Illinois Turfgrass Research Report; Iowa State University Research Report; The Newsletter [New England]; Northwest Turfgrass Topics; The Proceedings of the Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents; Proceedings of the Midwest Regional Turf Conference; Proceedings of the North Carolina Turfgrass Conference; Proceedings of the Northwest Turfgrass Conference; Proceedings of the Southeastern Turf Conference; The Scotts Company Archive; TurfComms</i></p>	

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

The cumulative effort of creating a digital and accessible PDF collection online now totals 9,000 periodical issues from 33 titles & 275 book-like volumes, totaling 450,000 pages.

## 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. Our thanks for their continued vision and support!

Throughout 2016, 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 be donated in order to use resources to acquire scarce materials for the collection.

To learn more about some historic Noer Collection acquisitions in 2016, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOEROLDBUYS16>

For a sample set of 2016 regular Noer Collection acquisitions, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOERNEWBUYS16>

The most notable donations this year, in a banner year for such donations, were received from Mr. Lee C. Dieter, Dr. James A. Reinert, Dr. Douglas T. Hawes, the USGA Green Section Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Mr. Jim Spindler, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

For further details about 2016 donations to and acquisitions for the Noer Collection, please see the complete Noer Collection Report for 2016 here: <https://tic.msu.edu/sites/default/files/images/Noerrpt16wthPics.pdf>

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

### 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 collection's development. During 2016, Dr. Beard continued to transfer materials, including 706 periodicals and monographs.

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

## Staff

	<b>Cliff Haka</b> Director of MSU Libraries 517.355.2341 haka @mail.lib.msu.edu		<b>Shawn Nicholson</b> Associate Director of Digital Information 517.884.6448 nicho147 @mail.lib.msu.edu		<b>Pete Cookingham</b> TIC Head 517.884.1950 cooking1 @mail.lib.msu.edu
	<b>Michael Schury</b> TIC Manager 517.884.1952 schurymi @mail.lib.msu.edu		<b>Elisabeth Mabie</b> TIC Assistant Manager 517.884.4043 mabieeli @mail.lib.msu.edu		<b>Andrew Lundeen</b> TIC Library Assistant 517.884.1951 alundeen @mail.lib.msu.edu

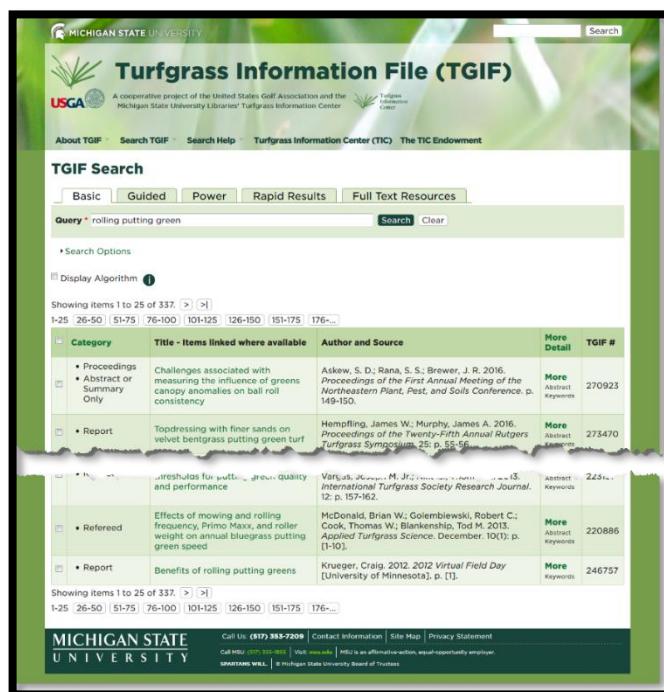
## New Features

The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database has been updated to improve usability and is sporting a clean new look with a more responsive design! This migration also better positions the database for ongoing improvements and changes.

- In addition to the enhanced interfaces, you will notice some other minor changes made to improve TGIF searching. Some words are so common that they are automatically removed from Basic Search queries, called stopwords. Some examples include: and, at, for, grass, of, turf, was, etc. There is now a checkbox that can be clicked that will include stopwords in a Basic Search. This could be very helpful when looking to find a specific item with a somewhat ubiquitous title
- Power Search no longer displays in “pop-up” mode – it’s now as simple as building a search by adding or removing search rows.
- The display format and record sort functions for all search interfaces are now separate drop down fields to improve sifting through search results.
- There are also no longer any “logout” buttons, which means there is no need to login and out of TGIF in order to gain access to the restricted access full-text materials.
- The biggest change however, is the increased browsability within full TGIF records, which at this point includes hot linked authors and hot linked keywords.

You may have noticed that our public website has been redesigned as well! If you need assistance with the new public website, the TGIF search interface, have encountered an error, or would like to provide feedback about either of these, please get in touch with us using one of the contact methods below.

**We are so excited to share these changes with you – keep a lookout for more to come!**



### Mailing Address:

Turfgrass Information Center  
Michigan State University Libraries  
366 W. Circle Drive (10)  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048 USA



Web: <http://tic.msu.edu>

Voice: (517) 353-7209

Fax: (517) 353-1975

Email: [tgif@msu.edu](mailto:tgif@msu.edu)



[facebook.com/turfgrassinformationcenter](https://www.facebook.com/turfgrassinformationcenter)



[@turflibrary](https://twitter.com/turflibrary)