

Turfgrass Information Center

2017 Annual Report



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Highlights

89,000+ Searches • 65% Linked to Full-Text • 14,300+ New Records • 26,400+ Records Indexed
82 Academic Consortium Members Worldwide • 67% 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 2017, the Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF) had over 289,000+ records (with over 65% 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- Collect and preserve published and unpublished materials relating to turfgrass science, culture, and the management of turfgrass-based facilities, including golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod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.

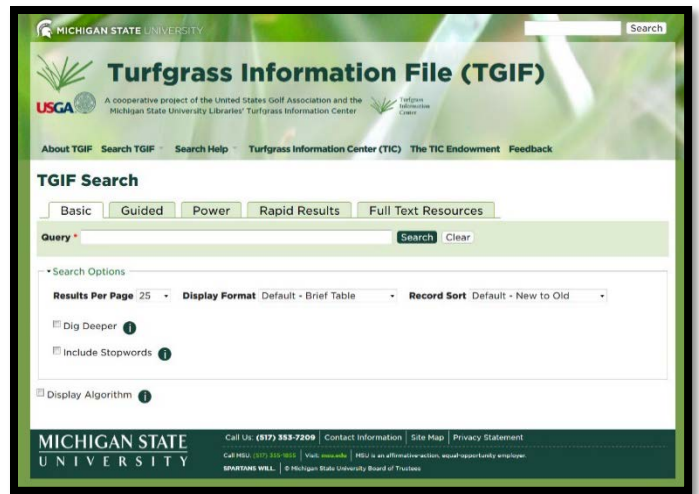
To find out how you can help support the TIC, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/endowment>

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>



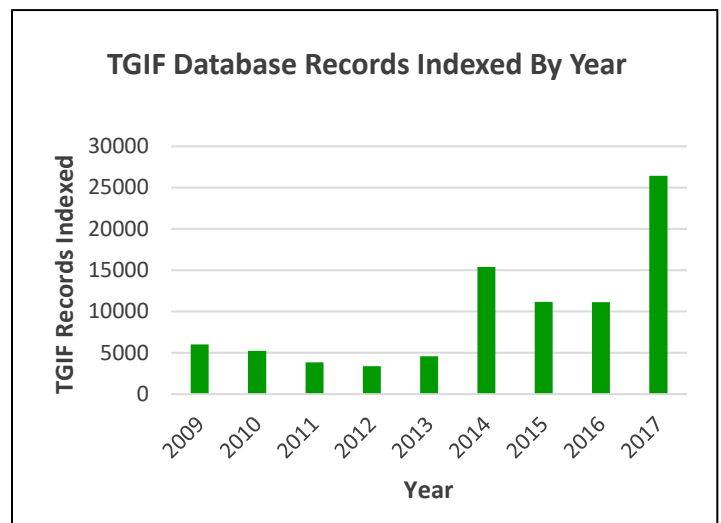
Database Construction

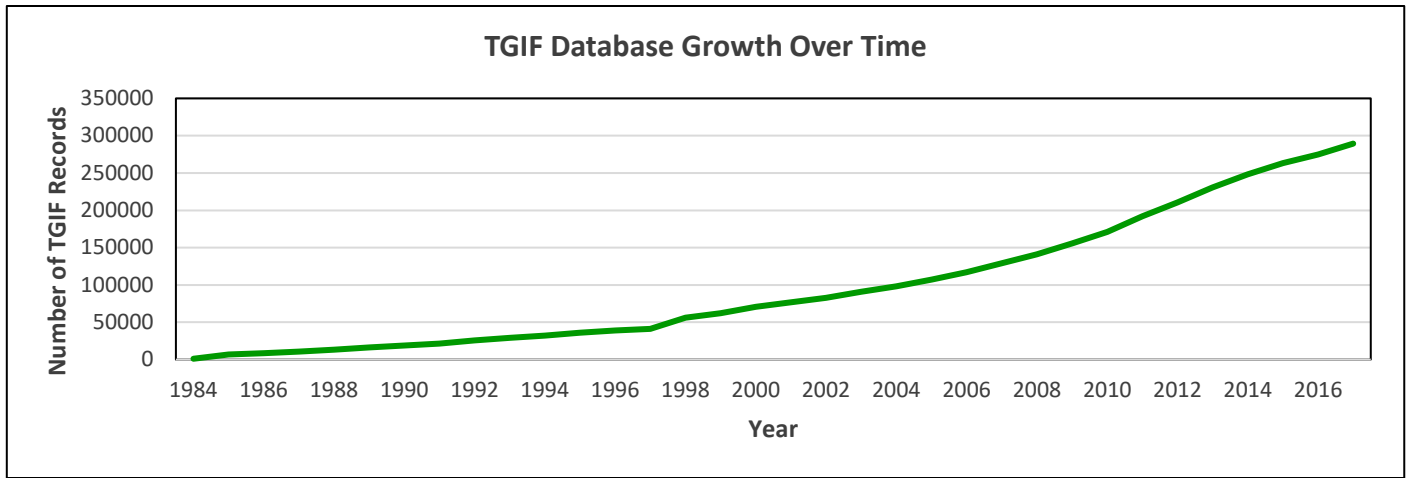
The Turfgrass Information Center creates Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database records for a wide range of materials including periodical articles, monographs (book-like items), fact sheets and pamphlets, images, podcasts and web documents. The following scope is used to help determine item selection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

2017 TGIF Summary Construction & Usage Statistics

New records created	14,334
Issues closed ¹	4,240
Records modified in current year, but created previously ²	45,901
% Full-text	65%
Records indexed	26,434
Total records in database	289,215
Total TGIF Searches	89,216
TIC-hosted Electronic Resources Searches (excluding Browsing)	7,134
Fastlinks	295,737
Total Search and Fastlinks ³	392,087
¹ Periodical issues which have had the descriptive record & indexing completed on all articles selected for inclusion in TGIF. ² Records created in another year, but edited/enhanced in 2017. ³ Excludes Fastlinks on non-Drupalized sites	





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. In 2017, our indexers knocked it out of the park! Over 26,000 records were indexed this year, more than in the previous two years combined.

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 2017

- 65% Records with full-text availability** (6% that may have secondary access restrictions)
 - 39% 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 digitally capturing items with records in the TGIF database. As we do not yet have copyright permissions for many of these items, our digital vault is access-restricted and used primarily for verifying that TGIF records remain accurate and up to date. At the end of 2017, 67% of items described in TGIF have been digitally secured.

TIC Use and Users

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 13 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.
- 82 Academic Consortium Members with Campus-Wide Access, representing 42 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 Members 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 memberships, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/subscribe>

Highlights of Efforts for Cooperators

Digitization & Archiving

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 65% of TGIF records now link in this way!

New Electronic Resources in 2017:

Australian Turfgrass Management Journal; Gressforum; The Newsletter [New England]; Proceedings of the Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference; Proceedings of the Midwest Regional Turf Conference; Tee to Green [New York]; TurfComms

Upcoming Electronic Resources:

Turfgrass Producers International publications including *Lawn Institute Harvests*; New Zealand Sports Turf Institute publications including *New Zealand Turf Management Journal*; Kansas State University Publications; University of Illinois publications; The Scotts Company, LLC publications including *Lawn Care*; Northwest Turfgrass Association publications; New Mexico State University publications; Michigan GCSAA chapter publications; *Michigan State University Turfgrass Publications*; as well as individual sites for: *Chips & Putts; Connecticut Clippings; Golf Illustrated* [London]; *The Green Sheet; Iowa State University Research Report; Proceedings of the North Carolina Turfgrass Conference; Proceedings of the Southeastern Turf Conference*; and the *USGA Regional Turfletters*.

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 10,000 periodical issues from 38 titles & 360 book-like volumes, totaling 494,000 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 2017, 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.

During the 2017 reporting year, a significant number of particularly special historic items were acquired for the Noer Collection – continuing a series of extraordinarily fruitful acquisition years. **Most notable among these historic materials** were:

- Forestier, J.C.N. 1908. *Les Gazons*. Paris: Lucien Laveur.
- Powell, Will D., ed. 1948. *“The Green Manual”: the Construction of Bowling Greens and Their Maintenance*. [South Africa: Johannesburg and Southern Transvaal S.D.B.A. Greens Advisory Committee].

- Beale, Reginald. 1907 & 1921 (4th American Ed.) *The Practical Greenkeeper*. London: Carters & New York: Carters Tested Seeds Inc. [Two items of the 30 or so from these two series published between 1907 and 1939 in the UK & USA. We still need about 20 of them...]
- Tucker, William. 1915. *Practical Illustrations of Turf Production*. New York: William Tucker.
- Peter Henderson & Co. 1915. *Henderson's Everything for the Lawn and Golf Course*. New York: Peter Henderson & Co. (The earliest known number in this series published from 1915-1940.)
- Sutton, Martin H. F. [circa 1913?] *The Laying Out and Upkeep of Golf Courses and Putting Greens*. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co, Ltd. (While we already owned one of this item, it has turned out to be not-insignificantly different from the one we acquired last year – and there well could be others.)

Also, we acquired a nearly-complete serial run of *Golf Illustrated* [London], continuing *Golf* [London], published between 1890 – 1910. This primarily-weekly periodical includes many photographs and notes relating to early greenkeeping practices and equipment, as well as course profiles. This 62-volume run, formerly owned by the Royal Blackheath Golf Club is missing only 2 volumes (one March-June 1909 and the other March-June 1910) and is allegedly the most complete run of this title extant in the world – we continue to search for copies of the missing two!

Special thanks to Science Collections Coordinator Heidi Schroeder, Associate Library Director for Collections Steven Sowards, and Library Director Cliff Haka for special funding help on this one. The ultimate goal is to digitize it all!

For further details about 2017 donations to and acquisitions for the Noer Collection, please see the complete Noer Collection Report for 2017 here: <https://tic.msu.edu/sites/default/files/images/Noerrpt17wthnoPics.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 2017, Dr. Beard continued to transfer materials, including 817 periodicals and monographs.

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

New Features

In May 2017, a new TGIF feature was released – the ability to search our keyword authority file, the Turfgrass Thesaurus. The Turfgrass Thesaurus is a controlled list of terms we use to index, or assign keywords to, TGIF records. These keywords are connected in hierarchical relationships through broader, narrower, and related terms, and also include common synonyms and variants to capture historical, regional, or linguistic differences in terminology.

The Thesaurus Search is a great way to see if we have a certain term or concept related to turfgrass available in our controlled vocabulary. By default, Thesaurus Search will find every keyword or keyword phrase that includes your searched term, as well as every keyword with a relationship to that term.

- Search results are organized so that valid terms – those which can be attached as keywords to TGIF records – filter to the top, sorted alphabetically. Nonpreferred variants of valid keywords display last, also in alphabetical order. Scope notes, which tell our indexers when or how to use certain terms, also appear on the table of results when available.

- Just click on a valid keyword on the results page and you'll land on the Thesaurus page for that term, where you can see and navigate to any terms that are conceptually broader, narrower, or related. This page will also display any nonpreferred synonyms we have captured in the Thesaurus, as well as some additional information depending on the term in question.
- Finally, selecting "Display tagged TGIF records" for a given term will bring up a list of all the TGIF records with that keyword assigned to them, and you can also move from this list of TGIF records to the relevant Thesaurus entry by clicking "See this term in the Turfgrass Thesaurus."

We hope you'll find our new Search feature useful, and we welcome your feedback! The Turfgrass Thesaurus is a constantly evolving construct, with new terms being added, new scope notes being written or refined, and new links between terms being forged all the time.

Staff

2017 was a year of change here in the Turfgrass Information Center. In November, Michael Schury accepted a different position within the Michigan State University Libraries. Though he has not physically moved far away, his absence will be felt. We wish him the best in his new position where he catalogs original materials for the MSU Library (which will include turfgrass items!), and thank him for the years ensuring the TGIF database and the Turfgrass Information Center office ran smoothly. For now, the roles Michael filled will be handled by Pete Cookingham, Elisabeth Mabie, and Andrew Lundeen.



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The Turfgrass Information Center would like to thank supporters for their ongoing contributions, be it financial or donations of needed materials. We appreciate your continued dedication that benefits turfgrass research and management.

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