Communication is vitally important to providing quality service, so here at the Turfgrass Information Center we’re always looking for new ways to connect with our users. As such, we are happy to announce the launch of the Official Turfgrass Information Center Twitter account. Perhaps you were a follower of the old TIC Twitter page, and recently it may have seemed to “disappear.” This was a Twitter page being run by an anonymous individual under our name. A special “thank you” is in order to them for their flattering work in keeping interested individuals updated on our goings on! If you had signed up previously, please consider following us again at the Official TIC Twitter, which you can find at: http://twitter.com/TurfLibrary

Another way to connect with us is to check out the TIC blog, which can be found at: http://tic.msu.edu/blog.html or sign up to receive the blog directly through an RSS feed!

If you subscribe to the TGIF database, you have the added bonus of viewing an RSS feed that lists search sets for all new refereed materials entered into the database each month. As you log into TGIF, you will see the Terms & Conditions page, which has a light blue sidebar to the left. This sidebar contains many links you may find of use, including “Recent Refereed Added.”

TIC’s Digital Archives Continue to Grow

Update, the official publication of the Sports Fields Managers Association, is the latest addition to our ever-growing digital archives. The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is the New Jersey Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). The mission statement of SFMANJ is as follows: Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability, and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

Update, the official publication of SFMANJ, is a source of practical turfgrass, skin surface, and synthetic turf information in the form of articles authored by sports field managers, University extension personnel, and vendors. The newsletter also features articles on upcoming field days and conferences as well as photos and written recaps of past events.

Published continuously since July 2001, the newsletter began as a monthly publication. In 2002, the newsletter was published bi-monthly (6x per year) and was co-edited by Jim Hermann and Eleanora Murflitt-Hermann.

Brad Park, Sports Turf Education and Research Coordinator, Rutgers University, elected to the SFMANJ Board of Directors in December 2003, assumed responsibilities as editor of Update beginning with the November/December 2005 issue and is currently holding this position.

Publication of SFMANJ Update became quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) in 2009. Newsletter design, layout, distribution, and advertising sales are currently managed by Debra Savard, SFMANJ executive secretary. This archive, an ongoing cooperative project of SFMANJ and the Michigan State University Libraries, features access to Update from 2001 to the present. To access this archive, visit: http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/update

——continues on p.5

The Box Score

Number of TGIF records: 190,000+
Average total records added monthly in 2011: 1,891
Percentage of records of materials reporting results of original research: 24%
Number of students employed within TIC: 31
New TGIF Subscription Options

It feels like this past year has slipped by faster than we could blink! And with a new year already approaching fast, the Turfgrass Information Center has rolled out an improved subscription system. It is hoped these changes can provide small and intermediate-sized corporations and organizations, in particular, more opportunities to use the TGIF database as well as making the overall subscription process more clearly defined for all of our subscribers.

Academic Institution Subscriptions

Academic Institution Subscriptions are designed for use by teaching and research institutions. TGIF can be used to support academic programs in landscape architecture and design, horticulture, parks and recreation facility operations, landscape management, and of course turfgrass science. Academic Subscribers have two options:

1) **Perpetual** (Best Value—one time charge, no further annual charges)
   a) Universities or colleges belonging to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)—US$4,000
   b) Non-ARL institutions awarding baccalaureate (i.e. bachelors) degrees—US$2,750
   c) Two-year or community college—US$1,500

2) **Annual Trial Access Charge**
   a) Any institution—US$800

Contributing Cooperator Subscriptions

Contributing Cooperator Subscriptions provide an opportunity for groups to not only make the resources of the Turfgrass Information Center available to their membership/staff, but also as a way to support the continued expansion of the content and availability of the Center’s information. Corporate, association and organizational subscription arrangements are negotiated individually with the Center and primarily depend on the size of the group’s membership. Access normally involves the corporation, association, or organization handling authentication from within its own website. Thus, a “members only” area within the cooperator’s website, with password-protected access is generally required. We also encourage corporations, organizations and associations to consider the simultaneous digitization of their turfgrass related publications in conjunction with such an agreement. To discuss an arrangement with the Center, please contact either:

Clifford H. Haka  
Director of Libraries  
Michigan State University  
100 Library  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048  
517-432-1147  • hakac@msu.edu  
or  
Peter Cookingham  
Head, Turfgrass Information Center  
100 Library  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048  
517-884-1950  • cooking1@msu.edu

Annual Subscriber

Annual Subscriptions provide users with a single password-based logon to use TGIF online. Annual subscription rates vary depending on how many simultaneous users are desired. For U.S. residents, 95% of the subscription fee may be tax deductible as a contribution to the Endowment Campaign. TIC subscriptions are for one calendar year, beginning January 1. Users can specify if they wish a subscription to begin the following January 1. Subscriptions received after September 1 can begin immediately and expire December 31 of the following year.

**Annual Subscription Rate Schedule:**

- 1 Simultaneous User .....................$250
- 2 Simultaneous Users ...................$425
- 3 Simultaneous Users ...................$575
- 4 Simultaneous Users ...................$700
- 5 Simultaneous Users .................$800

The ‘Annual Subscription’ is limited to:
1. Organizational not-for-profits where all members of the group are of an associated profession, or,  
2. A registered for-profit with access limited to paid employees of the firm, or,  
3. An individual acting on his/her own.

Furthermore, Annual Subscribers must limit the availability of passwords for access as outlined above. Passwords cannot be publicly posted online and will be changed annually as a part of the renewal process. Evidence of abuse of this arrangement will result in termination of access. The designated contact individual for each annual subscription will also be ultimately responsible for any extra-charge TIC services generated by users of those passwords.

How has TGIF helped you?

Over the years, the TGIF database has served many thousands of turf practitioners, professionals, researchers, students and professors world-wide. TIC would love to hear how TGIF has been of service to you in either a professional or nonprofessional aspect. Testimonials submitted may be featured on our website, or in promotional materials. If you have benefited from a TGIF experience, let us hear it at: tgif@msu.edu or read past testimonials at: http://tic.msu.edu/testimonials.html
Various Views

The TGIF database grows larger and more comprehensive with each passing year, which is good news for our subscribers, but with this deluge of information available at your fingertips, being able to sort through it all becomes crucial. This is when it can be incredibly helpful to utilize the various result views TGIF provides. When a search is conducted, results appear in the “Brief Table” format by default.

On the left hand side of the Brief Table, a column exists for marking interesting records, and the column next to it will indicate what type of item the record is for. The third column contains title information for the record, and the fourth indicates the author(s) and source of the record. The second to last column holds a MORE button which opens the complete TGIF record, and the last is the individual TGIF record number. By default, records that link to full text will “float” to the top of any search conducted and can be accessed in one of two ways. In the Brief Table view, clicking the hyperlinked title will open full text; it can also be accessed by opening the full TGIF record using MORE. Within the record, single URLs will appear by themselves with any restrictions listed. Multiple URLs appear listed as “Multiple Web URL Options—Click Here for Table of Choices,” and clicking will open a short list of all available URLs for that record.

Clicking on “Display Format—Sort” will allow you to change how you view the records of your search. “Short” will provide a format suitable for quick evaluation scanning.

Selecting “Full” from the dropdown will provide you with each piece of data the TGIF record contains. This view will provide the abstract, number of references, and the availability of figures, pictures, tables, graphs, or more in the article. At the bottom of the page is “Choices for finding the above item:,” which may provide several options for locating this material. If a URL exists for the record, it can be found here as well as the top of the record and is by far the fastest and easiest way to view an item. If the item is cataloged within Michigan State Universities’ Libraries, this is where the call number or a link to the call number will be listed. To find this item elsewhere in the world, using “Find in a library with WorldCat” will search worldwide for the item and then list the closest library participating in WorldCat that owns that item. If the record has “Available from TIC Vertical Sequential File: X,” this indicates that this item is within the Turfgrass Information Center.

If you are doing library research, then you may be interested in using the “Citation” format, which will provide you with a Crop Science-like citation for TGIF records. This format can also be found in all Full Display formats.

For example, a citation would appear as:

Your Search Results—Citation-like (Crop Science)

TGIF in the Classroom

The Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF) is gaining popularity as more than just a research tool; it’s also a useful aid in teaching classrooms how to use and search large databases. TGIF can be used in curricula for undergraduate, graduate, certificate, or continuing education. This applies to more than turf students! We believe that TGIF can provide timely, pertinent information as well as a valuable historical archive to students across a variety of concentrations from landscape management to parks and recreation, in addition to being an invaluable resource to turf management students and in continuing education contexts.

Did you know?
You can use a temporary “bump-up” in the number of simultaneous users permitted for an academic institution. This is incredibly useful if you plan on using the TGIF database for hands-on instruction or training purposes. If you plan on using TGIF in this format, please notify us one week before you would like to do so either by calling 800-446-8443 or email: tgif@msu.edu

• The number of simultaneous users cannot exceed 25
• The machines used for training/instruction must be in the defined IP range for the institution
• If you would like us to supply copies of the TIC brochure, please let us know the quantity needed and allow 2 weeks for delivery
• A “Getting Started with TGIF” handout that is useful for instruction is available at http://tic.msu.edu/Getting_Started_TGIF.pdf
• Call us the day of use to ensure everything is running smoothly for both parties

FAQs
I need to review several records, how can I do this?
Paring down your search results is easy; simply conduct your search as you normally would. When the results appear in the Brief Table format, just click the small box labeled “Mark” on the left hand side of the results. Mark any articles that are of interest to you; then scroll to the top of the page and click “Display Marked Records.” (You can mark records across several pages of your search results as well; you will not lose the marked records as you browse through pages of the search.) Once marked records are displayed, you can refine your search further by unmarking records within your list and clicking “Display Marked Records” again. You can go back to the original search using “Back to Search” and clicking “Clear Marked Records” to clear all records marked for review.

I got too many records with my search—help!
You may try adding another search term to your preexisting search term when using Basic Search, this may greatly reduce the number of hits you receive, especially when searching for common terms. When using Guided Search, using the AND button with another search term will also scale down your search results.

I need to see more records at one time.
When you first conduct your search, you are given the option of how many records the database will display. If you have conducted the search already but wish to see more than 10 records per page, click the drop-down “Records/Screen” button and select the number of records you wish, either 10, 25, or All. Then, click the “Display” button to show your desired records. Caution is advised using the “All” display as some search results may yield hundreds of hits.

Can I print my results?
Yes, it’s as easy as clicking the “Print” button in your browser! You can also print select portions of text by highlighting the desired text with your mouse and clicking “Selection” under “Print Range” in your printer options. If, for example, you wished to print all the abstracts for your search, it’s helpful to use the “Sort” and “Display” buttons to arrange your results in a meaningful way as well as ensuring print settings are set to “All” in the “Print Range.”

U2 Concert Produces Fuel for Indexing “Alternative Event Preparation”

Mid-summer saw U2, one of the largest recording artists in the world, come to Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University’s campus—with an even larger than life stage. Boasting one of the biggest screens ever used for touring, weighing in at around 50 tons and a stage pushing 400 tons, this posed problems for each venue the 360 Tour visited. U2 had originally been slated to play Michigan State’s campus back in the summer of 2010, but was postponed for front man Bono to have back surgery. This massive tour added fuel to produce literature regarding turfgrass and non-sporting large-scale events, which in TGIF we index as “alternative event preparation.” Sports fields are sometimes used for multiple events, including concerts, but rarely do events require a complete overhaul of a field!
We also have several exciting works in processing right now. Hole Notes, the publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association is currently underway. The MGCSA’s objective is “to advance the art and science of golf course management, to collect and disseminate practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession.” Hole Notes spans from around 1975 until present day and covers chapter news as well as timely articles written by university researchers and other turf professionals.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California has published the newsletter Thru the Green since 1987 through today. Thru the Green features articles regarding their chapter, superintendent and assistant superintendent profiles, as well as articles written by and for those who manage the golf course, including university personnel and vendors.

We’ve also started work on the UK-based serial, Greenkeeper International, which is the official magazine of The British and International Golf Greenkeepers’ Association. Published monthly, its primary focus is for those operating in a greenkeeping or course management position. Articles range from local and international news to interviews with greenkeepers, as well as articles from those working in the turfgrass industry within a university or corporation.

The largest project we are tackling right now is Golfdom. Published from 1927 through 1981 continuously (even during World War II!), and from 1999 through today. Golfdom is truly a treasure-trove of information on the happenings in golf and turf management across the country and through history. Thanks to the tireless work of the Graffis brothers (Herb and Joe), Golfdom is rich with information, and thus will create an impressive archive. Many Golfdom records have already made their way into the database and are searchable, although the archive is not yet complete. Golfdom’s digitization is in partnership with Questex Media who re-launched the publication in 1999.

For a full list of all publicly-available and restricted-access digital archives hosted by TIC, please visit http://tic.msu.edu/pubjrnlbrowse.htm

Digital Archives Grow

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The Turfgrass Information Center made an appearance in the USGAs August 26 Green Section Record with the title, ‘How do we know what we know?’. For decades the Turfgrass Information File has been the turf industry’s archive of the constant flow of turfgrass information,’ penned by Jeff Nus. Not long after, an updated reprint also by Nus appeared in the October 2011 Golf Course Management under the title, ‘Historians-in-chief.’ Both articles give detail on why the Turfgrass Information Center was created in the first place, citing the need to index the considerable outpouring of turfgrass information at the time. Since then, technology has advanced to the point where the Center can process a larger quantity as well as a larger scope of materials. Part of this is thanks to the generous donations of faculty members and turfgrass researchers and practitioners across the world. The articles note that having this information available globally is important for the thousands of turf managers who use TGIF, and thus why directly linking the full-text of materials has become a goal of the Turfgrass Information Center. Both can be viewed online; the USGA article is available in the TIC-hosted archive site at: http://turf.lib.msu.edu/gsr/article/nus-how-8-26-11.pdf. The Golf Course Management article can be found on the GCSAA website in the October 2011 issue.

“Historians-in-Chief”

TIC Staffing Changes

Over this past year, the Turfgrass Information Center has seen a few staffing changes that will enable us to run even more smoothly!

Aaron Tomak (below, left) had previously been working in a part time capacity at TIC as a library assistant, and as of early summer we are pleased to have him join us on a full time basis. Prior to his employment with the Turfgrass Information Center, Aaron worked for the Circulation Department in the Michigan State Libraries for 8 years. He also graduated from Michigan State University in 2008 with a degree in fine arts. Aaron is now supervising student employees in the creation of descriptive records from serial and web sources, as well as supervising the office and filing unit in addition to selecting articles to be input.

Elisabeth Mabie (right) has worked for the Turfgrass Information Center since February of 2008 throughout her time as a student until she graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Michigan State University this past May. After graduation, she returned to work as an on-call staff member assisting in managing the Descriptive Serials unit. At the beginning of September, Elisabeth was able to join the TIC staff as a short term clerical aide. Elisabeth is now focusing on projects that would help complete our processing of older titles, hand selection of articles to be entered, as well as handling user communications.

We would also like to throw a quick “Thanks” to Shaun Spivak for his stint as an on-call staff member early this summer. We wish you the best in your future endeavors!
Several donors have recently provided generous support for the Turfgrass Information Center!

Funds from the challenge and the matching gifts will be used to continue digitization of the slides within the Noer/Milorganite® Division MMSD Image Collection—14,000 35mm color slides illustrating the settings, techniques, and results of turf management efforts throughout North America between 1924 and 1980. Digitization of the slide portion of the collection is estimated at approximately $80,000.

To support the Noer/Milorganite image digitization project or other initiatives of the Turfgrass Information Center, contact Seth Martin, Director of Development for Libraries, Computing and Technology, at 517-353-7209 or tgif@msu.edu

Additionaly, the Turfgrass Information Center is always looking for any volunteers to help in a variety of capacities. Earlier this year, Kayla Burns—a former student employee, returned to TIC during her university break to donate time, and we thank her for this! We welcome all volunteers who would like to loan a helping hand and lend or gain experience with a variety of projects in TIC. There are many ways you can help TIC—help us help you!