

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

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## TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER

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In the spring of 1984, the USGA and Michigan State University signed an agreement whereby the MSU Library would design and develop a bibliographic computer database to provide access to published materials reporting the results of research that affects turfgrass and its maintenance. The initial period of the grant was from March 1, 1984 - June 30, 1985. The project has been funded to the amount of \$113,304. Herewith is our report covering the period of the grant. The report will highlight the original statement of the goals and objectives with comments and report of accomplishments in italics.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the U.S.G.A. Turfgrass Information Center is to provide efficient and effective access to all published and processed materials reporting the results of research affecting turfgrass and its maintenance. The access will be provided for the research community, for practitioners (such as golf course superintendents), for extension-type services, and for commercial concerns.

*There have been requests for information about golf courses, per se. Since the original commitment was turfgrass research, requests for information on sand bunkers, soil erosion, etc. all too often must be answered in the negative. Until there is agreement on a new statement of goals and objectives, we will continue to concentrate on turfgrass research as stated in the purpose noted above.*

Three goals, with their associated objectives, have been identified as necessary for the successful completion of the Project. These are detailed below.

1. Michigan State University will acquire, maintain, and preserve all appropriate printed and processed materials reporting on research related to turfgrass growth, development, and maintenance.

*Michigan State continued to acquire, with university funds, all pertinent information on turfgrass research. For the rare and unusual titles, the O. J. Noer Foundation provides financial support.*

- 1.1. The O. J. Noer collection will be established as a separate and distinct collection within the M.S.U. Libraries system.

*The Science Library, with the agricultural collections and turfgrass materials, has been moved to more spacious quarters on the second floor. We have yet to identify space to house the Noer collection in a special location. Two former conference rooms, however, are used as offices for the Turfgrass Information Center.*

- 1.2. A Librarian will be identified to devote part-time each week to the acquisitions of materials for the turfgrass collection.

*For the initial period of the grant, Peter LePoer served as Project Manager. A portion of his time has been devoted to collection development. LePoer has been succeeded by Peter Cookingham who continues to identify items for the collection.*

- 1.3. A network of researchers and practitioners in the field will be developed to assist in acquiring the variety of materials for the collection and for inclusion in the Project's bibliographic files.

*We have received a list of 264 researchers identified with interest section C5 of the American Society of Agronomy. It is our intent to solicit their support in identifying materials for the collection.*

- 1.4. Preservation of the collection, including binding and microforming where appropriate, will be undertaken.

*No part of the collection requires microfilming at this time. Binding of monographs and serials is a function of the Science Library.*

2. Bibliographic access to the expanded O. J. Noer collection will be provided by on-line access to the Project's retrieval system, supplemented by appropriate printed reports.

*The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is housed in an ALPHA MICRO-computer, using STAR software. Both the hardware and software work well. By June 30, 1985, 6,000 records were in the database.*

- 2.1. All monographs and separate reports currently acquired and selected for the O. J. Noer collection will be abstracted and maintained on the STAR microcomputer system.

*Monographs in the collection have been added to the database, but they have not been analyzed in detail for subject access. The report literature will always have a priority for adding to the file.*

- 2.2. All articles in the 30 or so technical journals and newsletters devoted specifically to turfgrass information (such as California Turfgrass Culture, Florida Turf Digest, Golf Course Management, Golfdom, Grounds Maintenance, Sports Turf Bulletin, and U.S.G.A. Green Section Record) will be abstracted and added to the file; the 15 or so scientific journals which publish primary research materials relating to turfgrass (such as Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, and Plant Disease) will be reviewed on a current basis and appropriate articles added to the file; technical and scientific journals in allied areas (such as Groundsman and Park Maintenance) will be reviewed regularly for identifying articles to be added to the file.

*Current "core" journals are abstracted and indexed cover-to-cover, "related" research journals are selectively done, as are journals in allied disciplines. Retrospective entry of relevant materials, including bound volumes and citation tracing, is proceeding as a high priority on a time-available basis. Most of the indexing has been completed to 1980. We will continue retrospective conversion to at least 1972. In total 1,200 different serial titles are included in the database.*

- 2.3. On a monthly basis the files and bibliographies of the National Agricultural Library, the Commonwealth Bureau, FAO, Biological Abstracts and others will be reviewed and/or computer searched for omissions and for other titles that do not usually report on turfgrass research. Articles so identified will be added to the file.

*A large number of records in the database are from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (CAB). Some 3,500 CAB records for the period 1972-84 have been downloaded, reformatted, and entered into the database.*

3. Michigan State University Library will provide loans and/or appropriate photocopies to all users who have reason to need access to the turfgrass collections.

- 3.1. Develop procedures to respond within 48 hours for most requests for loans or copies.

*Direct calls to the Project Manager will result in photocopies being mailed within 48 hours. The demand for such service is not there at the present time. A recent article*

*in Green Section Record should create some interest.*

- 3.2. Provide information to potential users on how to access the collection on-line or via U.S. mails.

*We are in the process of preparing a descriptive brochure that explains the project and services available. The brochure will explain how to acquire and use software to access the file with an IBM compatible personal computer. Also, we will continue to search telephone requests on demand.*

- 3.3. Provide the National Agricultural Library with a copy of bibliographic information for the AGRICOLA database.

- 3.3.1. Develop procedure and instructions for accessing TGIF through AGRICOLA.

*We are still working on the technical details of this objective.*

- 3.4. Develop a series of guides and bibliographies for the users who will not have on-line access.

*As noted above, a brochure is in process.*

*Of special interest is the fact that we have developed a thesaurus of some 9,000 entries for turfgrass indexing and searching. The thesaurus will be of increasing importance as the files continue to grow.*

1985-86

It seems that the contract will be continued through 1985-86. The Research Committee should give serious consideration to reviewing the goals and objectives as stated above. These were preliminary goals that may now need to be revised.

Specifically, the Committee must consider if the database is for turfgrass research or if it should be expanded. If the database is expanded to include golf, golf course, golf course design, then we have another magnitude of information.

We have talked about the possibility of establishing a bulletin board in connection with the Turfgrass Information File. I have no instructions or suggestions from the Research Committee on how you want to proceed, or if you want to proceed.

I am particularly uncomfortable with extending the project to the 1985-86 period without more considerations as to exactly what you want done. In a letter regarding the Dearborn meeting, it

was indicated that you are "hopeful the level of input (i.e. reference entries) will be increased over that of last year." I don't believe that is possible given the nature of the project or the extent of the literature of turfgrass research. The original proposal predicted 800 articles a year. Also, we indicated that our effort would go back to 1980. This matter needs review.