

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER
USGA Turfgrass Information File
1986/87

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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 computer-based bibliographic database to provide access to published materials reporting the results of research that affect turfgrass and its maintenance.

The original statement of purpose of the Turfgrass Information Center was to provide efficient and effective access to all published and processed materials reporting the results of research affecting turfgrass and its maintenance. Three goals were identified as necessary for the successful completion of the Project.

1. Michigan State University continues to acquire, maintain, and preserve all appropriate printed and processed materials reporting on research related to turfgrass growth, development, and maintenance.
2. Bibliographic access to the turfgrass collection is provided by on-line access to the project's retrieval system. The USGA Turfgrass Information File is housed in an ALPHA MICRO computer, using STAR software. Both the hardware and software continue to work well. By October, 1987, 11,000 records were in the database.
3. Michigan State University Library continues to search telephone requests on demand and provide a custom bibliography to users, provide loans or appropriate photocopies for those needing access to the collection, and is in the final stages of testing the dial-up package to provide direct remote access to the file, including software and documentation. As this level of service is introduced, a fee-for-service schedule will be implemented.

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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 computer-based bibliographic database to provide access to published materials reporting the results of research that affects turfgrass and its maintenance. The project began on March 1, 1984. At the end of the 1987 project year on January 31, 1988, the project will have been funded to the amount of \$ 289,326. This report will highlight the current statement of goals and objectives in effect for the period of this report, with comments, reports of accomplishments and anticipated results in italics.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the U.S.G.A. Turfgrass Information File 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.

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 A Librarian will devote part-time each week to the acquisition of materials for the turfgrass collection.

Collection development continues to be a part-time activity of the Project Manager, Peter Cookingham.

- 1.2 Communication will be maintained with researchers and practitioners to assist in acquiring the variety of materials for the collection and for inclusion in the Project's bibliographic files.

As file users have become acquainted with database objectives and usefulness, materials have been contributed for processing and addition to the file. Such contributions are particularly important for annual progress reports, theses and dissertations, and unpublished manuscripts.

- 1.3 Preservation of the O.J. Noer Collection, including binding and microfilming where appropriate, will be undertaken using funds other than those provided by the USGA or received in payment for services rendered by the TGIC.

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

2. Construction of the online index to the turf science literature (TGIF) will continue, including both currently published literature and retrospective processing back to 1972 in order to compliment the Beard Bibliography. The TGIC will arrange for including specific references ("the Classics") from the Beard Bibliography in the TGIF. If a copyright fee is required, the TGIC will consult with the TRC prior to making such payment.

The USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is housed in an Alpha Micro multiuser microcomputer, using STAR DBMS software. Both the hardware and software continue to work well. By October 1987, 11,000 records were in the database.

- 2.1 All turf research monographs and separate reports currently acquired and selected for the O.J. Noer Collection will be indexed, abstracted, and entered into the Project's online retrieval system.

Recent monographs in the collection have been added to the database, but they have not been analyzed in detail for subject access. A proposed separate database, an inter-filed index of "standard turf reference works", could provide intellectual access to the limited number of turf books. A file of this type is more appropriate for this material than a bibliographic database such as TGIF. It could be constructed within STAR and alongside TGIF, given the necessary copyright clearance. In any case, the report literature will always have a higher priority for addition to the file.

- 2.2 All turf research articles in the 70 or so primary research journals (e.g. Agronomy Journal, Plant Disease, Crop Science, etc), technical periodicals (e.g. California Turfgrass Culture, USGA Green Section Record, Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute, Golf Course Management, etc.), and annual compilations (e.g. Agronomy Abstracts, Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, etc.) will be reviewed regularly for identifying relevant articles for addition to the file.

Current published literature is added to the file after processing by TGIC staff; older materials are being added to the file on a systematic basis. Current emphasis is on the completion of the 1980-1987 conference proceedings.

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

In addition, citation tracing of currently published refereed material adds to the comprehensiveness of the file. These file-building techniques have resulted in TGIF citations originating from more than 1,270 different serial sources.

- 2.4 Simultaneously, index, and as appropriate, abstract golf course maintenance literature, estimated to be about 250 citations per year. Science literature will take priority over retrospective indexing of maintenance literature.

The maintenance literature is added as it "crosses our desk", it is not sought out for addition to the file in and of itself.

3. Michigan State University will make the online index (TGIF) available to support research, education, and management needs.
- 3.1 Information (a brochure) will be provided to potential users on how to access the index online, via telephone, or via mails. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 copies will be required. The TRC reserves the right to approve the final proofs of the brochure.

TGIC has continued to provide, in response to requests, an interm information sheet describing the database and TGIC services. This has been reproduced in a number of superintendent's newsletters, and Golf Course Management (February 1987).

- 3.2 Software will be made available to enable an IBM PC or compatible microcomputer to directly access the file, along with documentation to guide remote searching.

Development and fine-tuning of the software to distribute for use by remote PC's to enable direct searching of TGIF has, unfortunately, taken longer than anticipated; but is now available for final testing by the Green Section regional offices. After final enhancements, as deemed desirable, to the search documentation and any necessary (but currently unforeseen) software corrections, the package will be ready for distribution on a broad scale. It is reasonable to assume that formal announcement of availability, and actual "sale" of this service, could be made beginning at the Houston GCSAA Conference.

- 3.3 Respond to written, telephone, and electronic search requests within 48 hrs. with a printed bibliography.

This service continued to be offered, without charge. Search requests from 26 states during the past year indicate the increasing level of recognition the file is receiving.

- 3.4 Make available for distribution a first public edition of the Turfgrass Thesaurus, to aid search strategy construction.

A public edition of the Thesaurus will await the availability of dial-up access, as well as continuing developmental efforts to strengthen its usefulness and comprehensiveness. This should be attainable in a preliminary form during the 1988 year. The Thesaurus, a necessary element to provide long-term stability to file structure, details inter-relationships between some 12,500 keywords related to turf culture. In time, it may become a standard turf reference work in and of itself.

- 3.5 MSU will provide several "views" of TGIF which may be used to search specified portions of the file; for example, to check only refereed primary materials or only popular/general sources.

The capability to restrict searching to a "level" of the literature was implemented within TGIF during the past year. It provides the capability to include or exclude the given levels (refereed, report, proceedings, professional, trade, newsletter) alone, or in combination. Any search can therefore be crossed with, for example, a "LEVEL NOT=(Trade or Newsletter)" statement to eliminate all such sources from a search result. This insures that researchers will not have to wade through the popular literature seeking citable sources.

4. Michigan State University will provide loans and/or appropriate photocopies to all users who have reason to need access to the Noer collection.
- 4.1 Respond within 48 hrs. to most request for loans or copies, within legal restrictions.

Monographic requests have been handled per normal Interlibrary loan arrangements; photocopy requests will become a fee-based supplementary service.