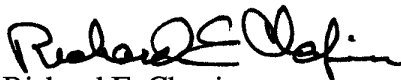
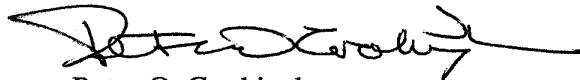


USGA TURFGRASS INFORMATION FILE
TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER
1987/88



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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 1988 project year on January 31, 1989, the project will have been funded to the amount of \$ 354,326. 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 USGA 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, as necessary, 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. A systematic effort to encourage even more extensive collection donations will begin in the coming year.

- 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 Turfgrass Information Center (TIC).

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

2. Construction of the online index to the turf science literature (USGA TGIF) will continue, including both currently published literature and gradual retrospective processing back to 1972 in order to compliment the Beard Bibliography. TIC will include specific references from pre-1972 sources when such materials are particularly important.

The USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is housed in an Alpha Micro multi-user microcomputer, using the STAR database management software. Both the hardware and software continue to work well with regular and continuing enhancements to record structure and searching capabilities. By October 1988, 13,000 records were in the bibliographic 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 interfiled 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 100 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 to identify relevant articles for addition to the file.

Current published literature is added to the file after processing by TIC staff; older materials are being added to the file on a systematic basis. Emphasis continues on the completion of the 1980-1988 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 turfgrass 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 300 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. Interest in access to this material is particularly high among golf course superintendents.

3. Michigan State University will make the online index (USGA 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.

TIC's full color brochure became available 8/88 with a final print run of some 36,000 copies. As requested by the Turfgrass Research Committee (TRC), 8,000 copies were provided to USGA Golf House, 8,000 to GCSAA, and 1,000 to each of the USGA Green Section regional offices. USGA and GCSAA have indicated an intention to blanket mail the brochures to USGA member clubs, and GCSAA members, respectively. TIC distributes the brochure as a part of its' Subscriber Application Package, which also includes the details and forms necessary to subscribe to USGA TGIF and open an account with TIC. About 650 packets have been distributed since July.

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

VuePort, the PC software necessary to dial into the Alpha Micro and STAR, is distributed to subscribers. The USGA Turfgrass Information File Dial-Up User's Manual became available for subscriber and authorized complimentary subscriber's use in 10/88. The Manual provides an introduction to searching, USGA TGIF, TIC services, and guidance in using USGA TGIF as a tool in research and management. Revision and enhancement of the Manual will be a continuing activity of TIC, as we respond to user needs, inquiries, and system/service enhancements.

The initial subscribers (excluding complimentary users) to online access number 40 thus far, from 23 states and provinces. This group of pioneers breaks roughly out as 51% clubs/courses; 28% research/academic; 12% not-for-profit agencies; and 9% private sector (other than clubs/courses). We are quite pleased with this initial distribution, which we feel will give us a good feel for expectations from several perspectives.

- 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 until August 1st. Following that date, searches became a billable activity of TIC with significant discounts (bordering on subsidy) for subscribers, and outright subsidy (with a token \$2.00 charge) for students. Making the database available for students, in any location, under such an arrangement is, perhaps, a national precedent in bibliographic practice. Search requests from 31 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 completion of continuing developmental efforts to strengthen its usefulness and comprehensiveness. This is a primary activity of the Graduate Assistant working on the project, Douglas Lee. We hope that a first public print edition of the Thesaurus will be available in early or mid-1989. 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, available both online alongside USGA TGIF and in a printed form.

- 3.5 Promotion of USGA TGIF will begin to the identified primary initial target user groups: Turf researchers and golf course superintendents.

In July, a survey was distributed to all Section C5 (primary affiliation) members of ASA. This included information regarding USGA TGIF and resulted in a significant response, in terms of awareness, interest, and donation of materials. Summary results will be reported during this coming year.

In July, an insert post card included in the USGA Green Section Record resulted in some 273 being returned to TIC, including responses from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Netherlands, and Thailand. Cards continue to dribble in.

Articles in the USGA Green Section Record, Golf Course Management, and Grounds Maintenance, as well as numerous superintendent's newsletters, assisted awareness activities.

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 became a service offered as a part of the supplementary services fee schedule, with discounted rates for subscribers, on 1 August.