

Turfgrass Information Center

2015 Annual Report



Highlights

469,000+ Searches • 60% Linked to Full-Text • 14,600+ New Records • 11,100+ Records Indexed
Over 200,000+ TIC-Hosted PDFs Displayed Over 18 Million Times
78 Academic Subscribers Worldwide • 53% 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 2015, the Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF) had over 263,000+ records (with over 60% 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- Collect and preserve published and unpublished materials relating to turfgrass science, culture, and the management of turfgrass-based facilities, including golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod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, via the TGIF database.
- Assist users of the collection and online system, by helping them to identify and locate materials that meet their needs.
- Provide user workspace and cooperative electronic infrastructure to support 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>



Turfgrass Information File
Worldwide Access to Turfgrass Science Information

A cooperative project of the
United States Golf Association and the
Michigan State University Libraries
Turfgrass Information Center

With special thanks to **GCSAA** for their support of TIC

Basic Search [Log Out](#) [Help](#) [Feedback](#)

Other Search Options

Guided Search Type what you are looking for below, then press **Search**:

Power Search

Browse Options Limit by Industry Sector (if Available): all sectors

Browse Turf Topics **Dig Deeper (Search Full Text)**

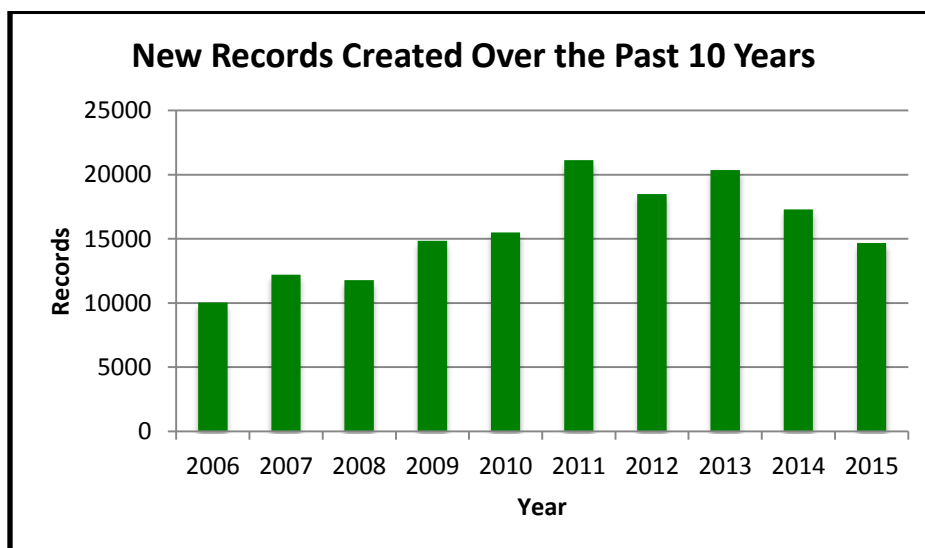
Browse Full-Text Journals (Logs out) Maximum number of records to retrieve: All (Default)

What's NEW in Turfgrass Research [Basic Search Hints and Examples](#) [Getting Started with TGIF Guide \(PDF\)](#)
Experiencing Search Difficulties? [Contact the Turfgrass Information Center](#)

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 to be entered into TGIF:

- Description and biology of turfgrass species, cultivars, pests, weeds, and related organisms
- Turf culture methods and techniques
- Turf care equipment and equipment maintenance
- Golf and sports facility maintenance, architecture, design and industry trends
- Turfgrass breeding and improvement
- Turfgrass seed and sod production, installation, maintenance and industry trends
- Regulatory and political aspects of turf culture
- Turfgrass water use
- Lawn and landscape management industry trends
- Turf user/turf manager relations
- Turf-related business management
- Profiles of turf-related businesses and facilities
- Biography of turfgrass researchers and professionals
- The lawn in popular culture
- Environmental, social and historical aspects of turf culture
- Turfgrass as a land use form



TGIF Summary Construction Statistics

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
New records created	14,669	17,290	20,355	18,548	21,193	15,618	15,049	11,749
Pre-1984 records subset	3,663	4,905	5,955	4,580	12,573	2,639	3,320	2,608
Issues closed ¹	6,608	8,992	8,813	3,752	2,437	2,717	4,000	1,483
Zero-hit issues ²	4,103	5,362	4,942	1,533	663	912	1,245	518
Records modified in current year, but created previously ³	65,743	41,906	51,177	24,848	30,732	17,719	42,034	34,659
% Full-text	60%	58%	58%	53%	46%	44%	41%	36%
Records indexed	11,169	15,400	4,577	3,368	3,859	5,243	6,015	n/a
Total records in database	263,790	249,121	231,831	211,941	193,607	172,589	157,530	142,481

¹ The issues closed are periodical issues which have had the descriptive record, indexing, and abstracting completed on all articles selected for inclusion in TGIF.

² The zero-hit issues are periodical issues which were reviewed but no articles were selected for inclusion in TGIF.

³ The records modified in the current year are records that were edited or enhanced.

Snapshot Status of TGIF

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Descriptive Records	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Abstracted Records	44%	46%	48%	50%	52%
Indexed Records	57%	56%	54%	57%	60%
Indexed and Abstracted Records	39%	41%	44%	47%	49%
Full-text Available Records	60%	59%	58%	53%	46%
Full-text Searchable Records	21%	22%	23%	25%	22%
Full-text Available, Indexed, and Abstracted Records	25%	24%	25%	25%	24%
Full-text Available, Indexed, Abstracted Records, and Full-text Searchable Records	10%	11%	12%	13%	14%

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 are moved 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.

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 2015

60% Records with full-text availability (5% that may have secondary access restrictions)

35% Records with full-text availability provided through MSU Libraries' efforts (12% with restricted access)

25% Records with full-text not provided through MSU Libraries' efforts

17% links to periodicals articles

2% links to book-like items

6% 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 saving digital copies of items described in the TGIF database which are not electronically hosted by TIC. This is accomplished in two broad ways: If a TGIF record has a working full-text link, the linked digital object is saved from the Web to a local, secure digital archive. If the record has no Web link, but TIC has a scannable physical copy of the item, then that item is digitized and locally saved. As we do not have copyright permissions for many of these items, this digital archive is access-restricted and not available to the public through TGIF or the Web. At the end of 2015, 53% of items with TGIF records have been digitally secured.

TIC Use and Users

TIC and TGIF Summary Use Statistics

TGIF Search Statistics	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total TGIF Searches	94,888	81,881	113,601	118,357	115,183	127,422	114,518	104,749	84,957	68,640
TIC-hosted Electronic Resources Searches (excluding Browsing)	13,011	13,695	14,548	16,940	20,444	20,313	20,949	19,902	17,974	16,490
Fastlinks	361,393	159,701	783,918	966,225	1,180,572	1,166,399	1,253,491	776,007	248,976	186,198
Total Searches and Fastlinks	469,386	255,418	912,067	1,101,522	1,316,119	1,314,134	1,388,958	900,658	351,907	271,328

TIC-Hosted Electronic Resources Use, Including Browsing	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
PDF Views	18,000,000+	16,100,000+	9,600,000+	10,000,000+	5,600,000+	3,800,000+

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 12 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.
- Academic Institutions with Campus-Wide Access, representing 40 states in the USA, 4 Canadian provinces, and 6 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 Subscribers with their own personal logon can be found all over the world.

More information about current user groups can be found at: <http://turfweb.lib.msu.edu/starweb/login.htm>, or for information regarding subscriptions, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/subscribe>

Highlights of Efforts for Cooperators

Digitization

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 for users to directly access the full-text of identified articles and other items of interest—over 60% of TGIF records now link in this way!

New Electronic Resources in 2015: <i>Landscape Management</i>	Electronic Resources Currently Under Construction: <i>Lawn & Landscape; Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day</i>
Upcoming Electronic Resources: <i>Australian Turfgrass Management Journal; The Green Sheet, Lawn Care Industry; Northwest Turfgrass Topics; The Proceedings of the Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents; Proceedings of the Midwest Regional Turf Conference; Proceedings of the North Carolina Turfgrass Conference</i>	

For a complete list of TIC-hosted full-text resources, see: <http://tic.msu.edu/pubjrn/browse.htm>

The cumulative effort of creating a digital and accessible PDF collection online now totals 8,266 periodical issues from 31 titles & 224 book-like volumes, totaling 415,471 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 Campaign. Our thanks for their continued vision and support!

Throughout 2015, 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 to be donated in order to use resources to acquire scarce materials for the collection.

To learn more about some historic Noer Collection acquisitions in 2015, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOEROLDBUYS15>

For a sample set of 2015 regular Noer Collection acquisitions, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOERNEWBUYS15>

The most notable donations this year were received from the USGA Green Section, Mr. Warren Rauhe, Mr. Mel Lucas, Dr. Stephen Cockerham, Mr. Monroe Miller, and Dr. Alec Kowalewski.

For further details about 2015 donations to and acquisitions for the Noer Collection, please see the complete Noer Collection Report for 2015 here: <http://ticold.lib.msu.edu/reports/Noerrpt15wthPics.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 2015, Dr. Beard continued to transfer materials, including 311 periodicals and monographs.

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

Staff

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The Turfgrass Information Center is happy to announce the addition of a new face to the department! Andrew Lundeen started within TIC on November 16th as a Library Assistant IV. Andrew received his Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he also received a Certificate in Special Collections and completed an additional Master's specialization in Data Curation. Andrew also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR.

Andrew has worked in the MSU Libraries' Special Collections as an intern and as a temporary librarian since September of 2013 where he has spearheaded the Special Collections Provenance Project, created exhibits, curated the MSU Student Activism Collection and coordinated its digitization. Andrew will be responsible for digital curation, indexing (keywording) records, and some collections management/development work.

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