

Turfgrass Information Center

2014 Annual Report



tic.msu.edu

Highlights

**255,000+ Searches • 58% Linked to Full-Text • 17,200+ New Records • 15,400+ Records Indexed
About 16 Million PDFs Displayed of TIC-Hosted Materials • 75 Academic Subscribers Worldwide**

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 2014, the Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF) had over 245,000+ records (with over 58% 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 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- Collect and preserve published and unpublished materials relating to turfgrass science, culture, and the management of turfgrass-based facilities, including golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod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 40+ 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. Many 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.html>

TGIF, the Database

TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive 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.html>



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

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 links are considered to have the full-text available. Records with the text of the item contained in the TGIF record are considered full-text searchable, since that text can be searched in TGIF directly. For full-text searchable records, there are two sources: periodicals which have been digitized by TIC and web source materials. Of the nearly 54,000 records with the text of the item contained in the TGIF record, 91% come from periodicals digitized by TIC.

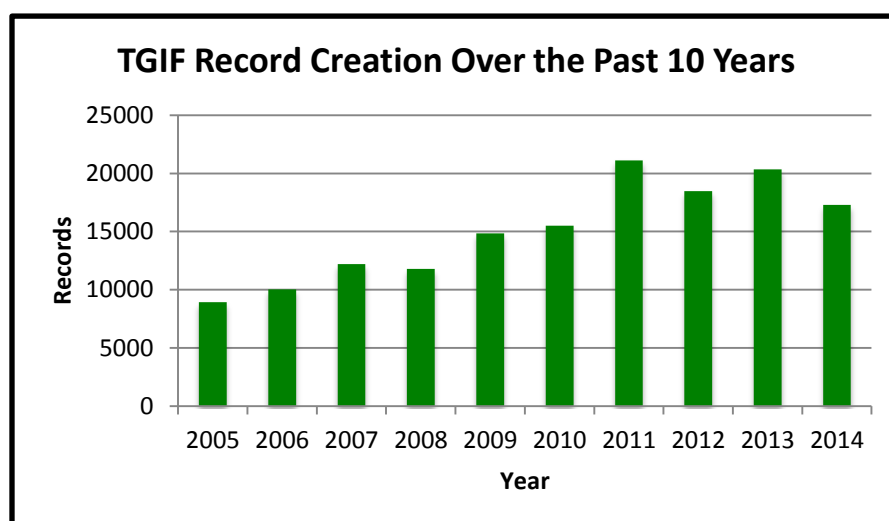
TGIF Summary Construction Statistics

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
New descriptive records created	17,290	20,355	18,548	21,193	15,618	15,049	11,749	12,259
Pre-1984 records subset	4,905	5,955	4,580	12,573	2,639	3,320	2,608	5,234
Issues closed ¹	8,992	8,813	3,752	2,437	2,717	4,000	1,483	1,782
Zero-hit issues ²	5,362	4,942	1,533	663	912	1,245	518	769
Records modified in current year, but created previously ³	41,906	51,177	24,848	30,732	17,719	42,034	34,659	20,388
% Full-text	58%	58%	53%	46%	44%	41%	36%	33%
Records indexed	15,400	4,577	3,368	3,859	5,243	6,015	n/a	n/a
Total records in database	249,121	231,831	211,941	193,607	172,589	157,530	142,481	130,732

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

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Descriptive Records	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Abstracted Records	46%	48%	50%	52%	56%
Indexed Records	56%	54%	57%	60%	65%
Indexed and Abstracted Records	41%	44%	47%	49%	53%
Full-text Available Records	58%	58%	53%	46%	44%
Full-text Searchable Records	22%	23%	25%	22%	22%
Full-text Available, Indexed, and Abstracted Records	24%	25%	25%	24%	25%
Full-text Available, Indexed, Abstracted Records, and Full-text Searchable Records	11%	12%	13%	14%	14%

Characterizing the Full-Text Available Content within TGIF

2014	<p>58% Records with full-text availability 5% Records with full-text availability that may have secondary access restrictions</p> <p>35% Records with full-text availability provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 12% Records with restricted access but available to all TGIF users</p> <p>23% Records with full-text not provided through MSU Libraries' efforts 15% links to periodicals articles 2% links to book-like items 6% remaining links. These are to a variety of materials, including blueprints, databases, images, judgments, online presentations, patents, podcasts, and slide sets</p>
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TIC Use and Users

TIC and TGIF Summary Use Statistics

TGIF Search Statistics	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Total TGIF Searches	81,881	113,601	118,357	115,183	127,422	114,518	104,749	84,957	68,640	57,860
TIC-hosted Electronic Resources Searches (excluding Browsing)	13,695	14,548	16,940	20,444	20,313	20,949	19,902	17,974	16,490	18,126
Fastlinks	159,701	783,918	966,225	1,180,572	1,166,399	1,253,491	776,007	248,976	186,198	76,789
Total Searches and Fastlinks	255,418	912,067	1,101,522	1,316,119	1,314,134	1,388,958	900,658	351,907	271,328	152,775

TIC-Hosted Electronic Resources Use, Including Browsing	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
# of Resources	40	35	31	31	23	15
PDF Views	16,177,172	13,786,348	10,083,370	5,671,629	3,895,237	3,607,201

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.html>

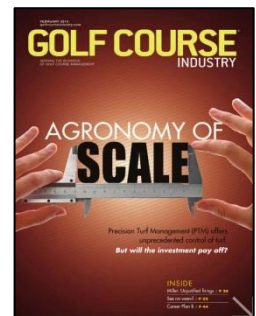
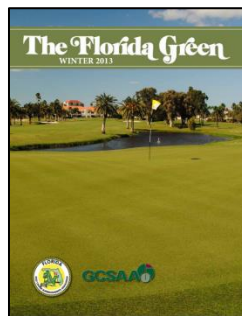
Highlights of Efforts for Cooperators

Digitization

Access to full-text research reports or other management content is a serious challenge for turf professionals, as most do not live next to a research library; however, this is changing. 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 58% of TGIF records now link in this way!

New Electronic Resources in 2014: The Florida Green; Golf Course Industry; Sports Turf Manager; Turfgrass Matters; the Noer/Milorganite® Image Collection; Greenkeeper International	Electronic Resources Currently Under Construction: Landscape Management; Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day
Upcoming Electronic Resources: The Green Sheet, Lawn Care Industry, Lawn & Landscape; The Proceedings of the Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents	

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



New Serial Publications in 2014

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 2014, 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 2014, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOEROLDBUYS14>

For a sample set of 2014 regular Noer Collection acquisitions, see:

<http://ticpass.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NOERNEWBUYS14>

The most notable donations this year:

- Multiple pallets received throughout 2014, containing materials from Ms. Elizabeth Galles on behalf of her father, the late Dr. James R. Watson, Jr. This donation, totaling 2,800 serials & monographs, as well as 51 linear feet of handwritten notes, loose articles, images, and more are truly invaluable materials, documenting an important slice of the professional turf world throughout the last 50 years.
- One large pallet of materials from GCSAA, totaling over 4,000 serials and monographs. This donation has helped us complete many incomplete binds of several popular titles in turf literature, making the material more accessible than ever before.

For more about the Noer Collection see: <http://tic.msu.edu/noer.html>

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 2014, Dr. Beard continued to transfer materials, including 466 periodicals and monographs.

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

				
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