

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

### USGA Turfgrass Information File Project

1991 Research Grant: \$70,000  
(Ninth year of support)

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The Michigan State University (MSU) Libraries are pleased to report steady progress on three important fronts during the 1990/1991 USGA Turfgrass Information File (USGA TGIF) project year. The issues include ease-of-use, levels of use, and the size of the database itself.

#### Ease-of-use

Based on Research Committee and subscriber feedback, 1990/1991 project efforts focused on making the software "front-end" to USGA TGIF more streamlined and "user-friendly". A revised menu system, redesigned search screens, and quicker entry and exit procedures highlighted these improvements. Changes will continue to be made to the system based on user feedback, database evolution, and software improvements. The August release of the *USGA TGIF Simulator Series* as an orientation, training, and promotional tool has provided new and potential users of the database with a low-key and realistic taste of the system without the pressure of "live" online telecommunications.

#### Levels of use

During the year, search and service requests from 42 states and five countries were processed at the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC). The new availability of the continuously expanding TOPICS bibliography series, with 40 now "in print", has provided an additional format for users of the literature. These will continue to expand in number based on expressed topical interest, with updated revisions on a regular basis.

#### USGA TGIF DATABASE

USGA TGIF passed a milestone in February 1991, when the 20,000th record was entered into the database. Continuous growth of the file reflects both the current growth of the literature and the processing of materials published since 1972. By the end of September 1991, over 21,300 records had been entered.

#### Conclusion

Continued software and database evolution, enhanced services and data availability, and an aggressive outreach and marketing program will characterize the upcoming project period. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to provide universal, convenient, comprehensive, rapid, and affordable access to the turf science literature.

***Please give us a call!***  
***(517)-353-7209***