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TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER

1985/86



Richard E. Chapin
Director of Libraries
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan



Peter O. Cookingham
Project Manager
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

In the spring of 1984, the USGA and Michigan State University signed an agreement whereby the MSU Library would design and develop a bibliographic computer database to provide access to published materials reporting the results of research that affects turfgrass and its maintenance. The initial period of the grant was from March 1, 1984 - June 30, 1985, followed by a one-year continuation. At the end of the 1986 project year on March 30, 1987, the project will have been funded to the amount of \$224,326. This report will highlight the original statement of the goals and objectives, which continued for the period of this report, with comments and report of accomplishments in italics.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the U.S.G.A. Turfgrass Information Center 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. The O. J. Noer collection will be established as a separate and distinct collection within the M.S.U. Libraries system.

The turf collection continues to be housed with Science library holdings. We have yet to identify space to house the Noer collection in a special location. Two former conference rooms, however, are used as offices for the Turfgrass Information Center.

- 1.2. A Librarian will be identified to devote part-time each week to the acquisitions of materials for the turfgrass collection.

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

- 1.3. A network of researchers and practitioners in the field will be developed 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.

- 1.4. Preservation of the collection, including binding and microforming where appropriate, will be undertaken.

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

2. Bibliographic access to the expanded O. J. Noer collection will be provided by on-line access to the Project's retrieval system, supplemented by appropriate printed reports.

The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is housed in an Alpha Micro multiuser microcomputer, using STAR OBMS software. Both the hardware and software work well. By June 30, 1986, 8,300 records were in the database.

- 2.1. All monographs and separate reports currently acquired and selected for the O. J. Noer collection will be indexed, abstracted and entered in the T611C database.

Monographs in the collection have been added to the database, but they have not been analyzed in detail for subject access. The report literature will always have a priority for adding to the file.

- 2.2. All articles in the 30 or so technical journals and newsletters devoted specifically to turfgrass information (such as California Turfgrass Culture, Florida Turf Digest, Golf Course Management, Grounds Maintenance, Sports Turf Bulletin, and U.S.G.A. Green Section Record) will be abstracted and added to the file; the 15 or so scientific journals which publish primary research materials relating to turfgrass (such as Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, and Plant Disease) will be reviewed on a current basis and appropriate articles added to the file; technical and scientific journals in allied areas (such as Groundsman and Park Maintenance) will be reviewed regularly for identifying articles to be added to the file.

Current "core" journals are abstracted and indexed cover-to-cover, "related" research journals are selectively done, as are journals in allied disciplines. Retrospective entry of relevant materials is proceeding as a high priority on a time-available basis. We will continue retrospective conversion to 1972 for all categories of materials, and prior to that time for "classic" works. In total 1,200 different serial titles are represented in the database.

- 2.3. On a monthly basis the files and bibliographies of the National Agricultural Library, the Commonwealth Bureau, FAO, Biological Abstracts and others will be reviewed and/or computer searched for omissions and for other titles that do not usually report on 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.

3. Michigan State University Library will provide loans and/or appropriate photocopies to all users who have reason to need access to the turfgrass collections.

- 3.1. Develop procedures to respond within 48 hours for most requests for loans or copies.

Direct calls to the Project Manager will result in photocopies being mailed within 48 hours. The demand for such service has been limited.

- 3.2. Provide information to potential users on how to access the collection on-line or via U.S. mails.

A full-color brochure describing available services will be published in the 1986 project year, as requested by the committee. Software, with accompanying documentation to guide remote searching, is in the final stages of testing and development. This will enable owners of IBM PC (and compatible) equipment to directly search T6LF using the power of the STAR software.

- 3.3. Provide the National Agricultural Library with a copy of bibliographic information for the AGRICOLA database.

- 3.3.1. Develop procedure and instruction for accessing TGIF through AGRICOLA.

Investigation of this alternative is currently on hold.

- 3.4. Develop a series of guides and bibliographies for the users who will not have on-line access.

The Turfgrass Thesaurus, to guide indexing and searching, continues to mature and develop. Custom bibliographies are available by calling the Center and are generally mailed within 48 hours.

TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER (ABSTRACT)

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Richard E. Chapin
Director of Libraries
Michigan State University
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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 bibliographic computer database to provide access to published materials reporting the results of research that affects turfgrass and its maintenance.

The original statement of purpose of the U.S.G.A. 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 Turfgrass Information File is housed in an ALPHA MICRO computer, using STAR software. Both the hardware and software work well. By June 30, 1986, 8,300 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 to finalize arrangements for direct remote access to the file, including software and documentation.

The Contribution of Turfgrass Information Center Activities
to the Development of Minimal Maintenance Turfgrass

Gaining access to the results of research efforts, whether to identify specific conclusions, speed the assimilation of findings, avoid duplication of effort, or compare methodology, has long been a basic activity in support of scientific research. The ability to systematically, comprehensively, and rapidly search a single source to identify prior works on a subject of concern is an awesome capability. Thus, we have Chemical Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, CAB Abstracts, The Bibliography of Agriculture, etc. All process selected turf materials, to one degree or another. Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center, on the other hand, processes all available materials of relevance, in a way specifically designed to support retrieval for turf research and management purposes. Speed, efficiency, and comprehensiveness are the system's objectives.

All three can aid our better understanding of turf, and the number of search requests regarding topics such as salinity tolerance, effluent water use, tissue culture work, heat resistance, and *Poa annua* management reflect this interest and opportunity. T61F can help insure that research of the future exploits the research of the past.