The James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection

In 2003, the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) and the MSU Libraries received Harriet and Dr. James B Beard's impressive collection of turfgrass research materials. This resource is generally acknowledged to be the finest personal compilation of turf-related material in existence, with international coverage of the turfgrass research and management literature, including books, periodicals, and technical reports. The Beard Collection serves as a non-circulating reference collection within the Turfgrass Information Center in the Main Library. This generous donation continues the efforts by Harriet and Dr. James B Beard in support of the Center’s work and objectives, including the TIC Endowment.

It was under the direction of Dr. Beard, and then–Library Director, Dr. Richard Chapin, that the MSU Libraries began to systematically collect printed turfgrass materials in the 1960s. In 1968, the personal collection of the late O. J. Noer, a pioneer turf agronomist, was added to the holdings through the O. J. Noer Foundation. The arrival of the Beard Collection solidified MSU as the strongest public repository of turfgrass literature in the world.


For the 2003 Collection dedication, historic works representing the evolution of published turfgrass science and practice were featured. View the TGIF Records for these Items.