Indexing Michigan Botanist / Great Lakes Botanist: Procedure and Findings

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*MB* is a peer-reviewed journal that covers regional floras, genera and species studies, book reviews, regional ecological studies, and more.
• In 2017, with volume 56, MB changed its name to *Great Lakes Botanist*, acknowledging the fact that articles and pieces covered this entire region, not a single state.

• Indexing: The content of the journal has been only partially indexed into journal databases by a number of products.
  – Biological Abstracts - 52 articles total
  – Cab Abstracts - 13
  – Scopus - 41
  – Web of Science Core Collection - 0
The Best: Index to American Botanical Literature (IABL), compiled by the New York Botanical Garden Library staff.

It lists 834 articles, mostly just the scholarly studies and the corrections.

Omits book reviews, Michigan Plants in Print, Publications of Interest sections, notices, etc.
Access

- Vol. 37 / 1998 – current is full-text accessible on the MBC’s website.
- The full-text holdings are in HathiTrust, for vols. 1-37, but not searchable across the many pdfs.
- From HathiTrust, I could capture the tables of contents from each issue and compile those to create my own partial index.
Multiple years, in my spare time, copied and pasted the text all TOCs into an online guide.

TOCs are on the back cover.

Problem: TOCs doesn’t include everything.

For instance, titles and authors of books reviewed, publication names in Publications Of Interest (POI), biography/obituary didn’t name person.

Link to the guide.
In 2015, I began using Mendeley, the citation management program.
Mendeley is free and accessible to the public as well as students and patrons.
Downloaded all indexed articles I could into Mendeley – not many!
For two years I manually added records to Mendeley by copying and pasting records from my guide.
Very slow and time consuming!
Mendeley

• Began exploring options to upload citations in bulk.
• In 2017, I discovered directions to parse citations and upload them into Endnote, a Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics product.
• From Endnote, one can export citations to a RIS or Bibtex file and upload that into Mendeley.
1. I copied the text of contents from the library online guide into Word.
2. Converted the text to a table.
3. Copied the table into an Excel spreadsheet.
4. Added missing information to each record in a separate columns – volume, issue, pages, year, journal.
5. For book reviews, added the title and author of the reviewed work to the title line.
Process – Upload readiness

1. To upload to Endnote, you need to match your column headers with those of Endnote’s.
2. If there is a mix of format types, you need to add a column to identify then citation type (article, book, etc.)
3. Prepare the author-name format for proper upload, Last, First M.//Last, First M.
4. Save this as a tab-delimited text document (.txt)
5. Open the saved text doc. in Notepad, and add *Generic [or *Journal Article] to the top of the text.

6. Remove all “” marks that don’t belong.

7. Save.
8. Open up Endnote Web (create a free account accessible on the WOS platform).

9. Upload the file using the ‘Import’ function, saving them to a folder.

10. To get the citations into Mendeley, Zotero, or other citation management software, export the folder of records as a RIS file. (I’ve noticed better accuracy with RIS vs. Bibtex.)
Mendeley Features

• Mendeley (and other citation management software) offer ways to organize and identify features.

• With MB, I used the following tags
  – By year of publication
  – Biographies / Obituaries
  – MMP: Michigan Plants in Print
  – POI: Publications of Interest
  – Book Reviews
  – Locations (Counties, Cities)
Findings

• To date, there are 1864 entries.
• Book Reviews: 245 (note that when multiple books were reviewed at once, I listed all titles/authors in the title field of the entry)
• Michigan Plants in Print (MMP): 58
• Nature Education Features: 23
• Biographies: 11 (name in title field)
• Obituaries: 32 (name in title field)
• Added cover descriptions (abstract field) as they identified people, places and plants: 212
Authorship

- Edward G. Voss (Chief editor 1962-2012; not including generic editorials and announcements): 155 articles
- Elwood B. Ehrle: 62
- Neil A. Harriman: 45
- Anton A. Reznicek: 37
- Howard A. Crum: 34
- Warren H. Wagner, Jr.: 31
- Paul W. Thompson: 31
- Dennis Woodland: 25
- Richard K. Rabeler: 24
• I am happy to share this with anyone as a RIS export file (634 KB).
• Can be uploaded to your Mendeley, Zotero, Endnote account.
• Working with GLB editor Michael Huft to promote it though the GRB in the Announcements section.
• Contact: suzirt@gmail.com