



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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March 5, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE LIBRARY OF OREGON ANNOUNCES GRANT PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Staff from the Oregon Historical Society Research Library and the Oregon State University Libraries were honored at an event Thursday, February 22, 2018, at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland, Oregon, for their collaborative project *Reuniting Finley and Bohlman*.

Following a recommendation by the State Library of Oregon's LSTA Advisory Council, the State Library Board recently voted unanimously to award *Reuniting Finley and Bohlman* the LSTA Project of the Year for fiscal year 2016.

Through a 2016 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) competitive grant, funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the State Library of Oregon, the Oregon Historical Society worked with the Special Collections and Archives Research Center of Oregon State University Libraries to digitize, preserve, and present unique materials and photographs from Oregon conservationists and photographers William L. Finley, Irene Barnhart Finley, and Herman T. Bohlman. This collaboration demonstrates how separate institutions holding related collections can partner to present unified digital access to resources. Using materials found in the newly digitized collections, the project also produced a number of engaging public programs about the lasting work of Bohlman and the Finleys, presented to a variety of audiences throughout Oregon.

Reuniting Finley and Bohlman was chosen as an exemplary project because it struck an exceptional balance between building a new digital collection and creating new programming and outreach efforts with partner agencies and organizations – which in turn helped engage new audiences for all of those involved. This project has also widened a window of public understanding of Oregon's history of natural conservation, heightening civic engagement and fostering a new opportunity for lifelong learning for many Oregonians.

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The State Library provides leadership and resources to continue growing vibrant library services for Oregonians with print disabilities, the Legislature and state government, and all Oregonians through local libraries.