

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND:

MISSING STORIES IN AMERICAN LIBRARY HISTORY



2025-2026
Gryphon Lecture

Wednesday
March 4, 2026
1:00 p.m.

501 E. Daniel Street
Room 126

(and online via zoom)

Reception to follow at 2:00 p.m.
in the Center for Children's Books

GUEST SPEAKER

Wayne A. Wiegand

*F. William Summers Professor of Library
and Information Studies Emeritus at
Florida State University*

Sponsored by the Center for
Children's Books

Despite ALA's 1939 Library Bill of Rights asserting commitments to intellectual freedom and non-discrimination, the school library profession has remained largely silent during pivotal moments of racial injustice, particularly in the two decades following *Brown v. Board of Education*. In this talk, Wiegand centers the experience of Black public school librarians during this period, including the racial violence they endured. He argues that school librarianship's traditional culture of "politeness" has led to a collective historical amnesia about their response to the Civil Rights Movement, making possible the continued perpetuation of professional myths.



Professor Wiegand is colloquially known as the "Dean of American Library Historians." Among many other titles, he is the author of *The American Public School Library: A History* and *In Silence or Indifference: Racism and the Jim Crow Segregated Public School Libraries*.



Register



**School of
Information Sciences**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN