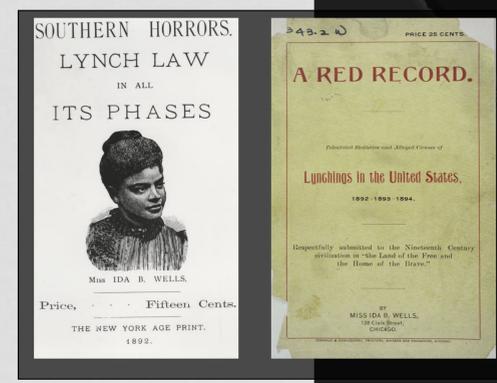
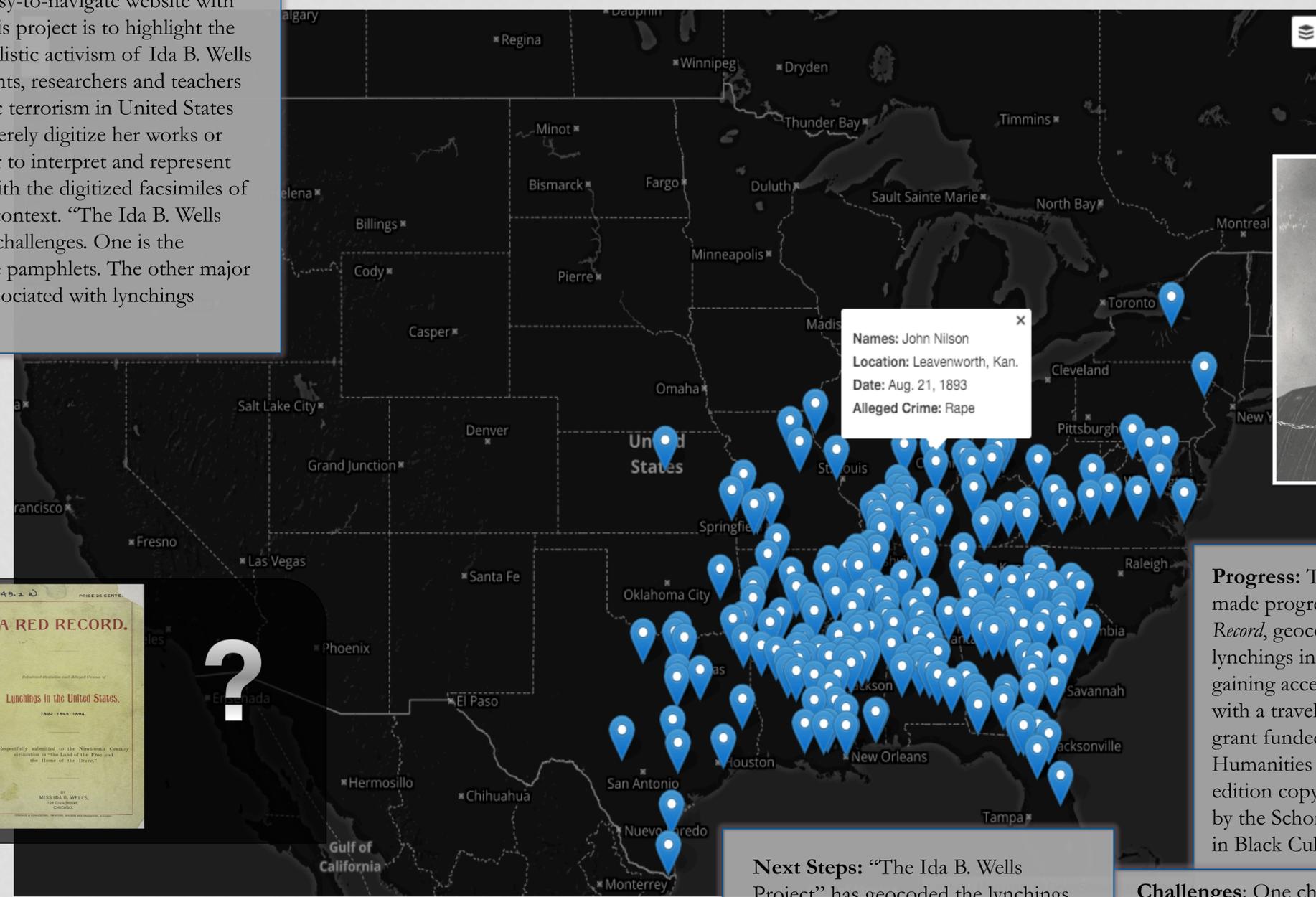


Strange Fruit: The Ida B. Wells Project

Ida B. Wells was a Black 19th century investigative reporter who launched an anti-lynching campaign, culminating in three pamphlets, *Southern Horrors*, *A Red Record*, and *Mob Rule in New Orleans*, revealing and demonstrating the injustice and violence of lynching culture. “The Ida B. Wells Project” seeks to transform Wells’s investigations into a digital humanities project with easy-to-navigate website with interactive components. The goal of this project is to highlight the barrier-breaking and courageous journalistic activism of Ida B. Wells by providing a tool to be used by students, researchers and teachers to shed light on this period of domestic terrorism in United States history. The project does not seek to merely digitize her works or provide a portal to her works but rather to interpret and represent her research in a 21st century format with the digitized facsimiles of her three pamphlets providing further context. “The Ida B. Wells Project” will have to overcome several challenges. One is the accessibility and availability of the three pamphlets. The other major challenge is the geocoding of places associated with lynchings described in Wells’s work.



Progress: The project has already made progress by text-encoding *A Red Record*, geocoding and mapping the lynchings in *The Red Record*, and gaining access to these two pamphlets, with a travel and research materials grant funded by the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute to view a first edition copy of *Southern Horrors* held by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Next Steps: “The Ida B. Wells Project” has geocoded the lynchings in *A Red Record* as GeoJSON data and mapped them on a customized digital map. The next steps are to get digital facsimiles of *Southern Horrors* and *Mob Rule in New Orleans* and encode those two texts with the Text Encoding Initiative standard and improve the TEI-coding of *A Red Record*.

Challenges: One challenge is the accessibility and availability of the three pamphlets. One concern is the deterioration of their fragile state is important because that may hinder any digitization of the works including the quality of the scans, if, indeed, the works can be scanned at all. The other major challenge is the geocoding of places associated with lynchings described in Wells’ work. Some of the towns no longer exist, may have changed their names, or the town name may have typographical errors.

The photograph of Ida B. Wells and the covers of *Southern Horrors* and *A Red Record* are in the public domain. The digital images are from the NYPL Digital Collections.