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The Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science recently was awarded a grant of $219,245 from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Project in Libraries. Simmons College will provide matching funds of $58,659 for the two-year project, directed by Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Library and Information Science. Entitled "Emperor I: China's Treasure Revealed Via Videodisc Technology," this unusual project uses the latest in videodisc technology to present and interpret a major historical/archaelogical period of China's past. The site and artifacts to be recorded are from the period of the first Emperor of China, Ch'in Shih Huang-Ti, whose outstanding achievements during a brief fifteen-year reign, 221 - 206 B.C., included the completion of the Great Wall, the institution of a written alphabet, the unification of warring states, and the building of a magnificant tomb, near Xian. "This tomb is the focus of the project," says Dr. Chen. "Its life-size pottery figures, excavated fairly recently, have already captured the public imagination. By organizing and recording the tremendous amount of information on this site and its relics — still images, print pages, and video images, — all stored on videodisc, we can make this period of history come alive in an acessible way for the general public as well as for scholars and researchers."

The on-site filming and data collection will be conducted in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Shansi Provincial Bureau of Museum Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Dr. Robert Stueart, Dean of the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is responsible for information gathering and content interpretation of the project, specifically as it relates to an American audience. The videodisc that is the end product of this project will be produced in collaboration with the Center for Advanced Visual Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An extraordinary group of experts is consulting on this project. They include Dr. K.C. Chang, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University; Charles Goldstein, Chief of Computer Technology for the Lister Hill National Center of the National Library of Medicine, and Wu Tang, Assistant Curator in Chinese Art for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. "Project Emperor I" represents a collaboration of the worlds of technology, the arts, and the humanities, as well as the cooperation between two cultures, Chinese and American.