

SUMMARY

Technology rapidly is changing some aspects of the craft process. Only some craftworkers want or are able to take advantage of these changes. This is cause for concern, since the traditional crafts usually are more negatively affected by technological change.

Natural resource supplies for crafts vary greatly in their availability, quality, and sustainability. Many craftworkers face problems in obtaining enough high-quality raw materials at affordable prices. These problems are likely to increase. The reliability of such an assessment is decreased, however, by the lack of information on U.S. and worldwide use of renewable resources. An inventory of the kinds

and amounts of organisms used in crafts is urgently needed. Resources in developing countries need priority appraisal, since they are being depleted more quickly.

The Federal Government plays an important role in supporting American crafts, protecting renewable resources, and developing technology. The connections among these activities have not been made explicit, however, and ineffective policies sometimes result. The intentional and the inadvertent results of activities in these three arenas have been examined in only a general way. A more rigorous examination is needed.