The Reference and Research Services/Archives of Christian-Democratic Policy (ACDP) Department effectively serves as the memory of the Christian-Democratic movement. It collects documents of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), of Europe's Christian-Democratic party alliance and of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung itself. In addition, it provides services for all the departments of the foundation with respect to scientific and fact-based research. It also responds to queries from the party and the public, whether for archival materials, secondary literature or newspaper and magazine articles. The main focus of its research is the Christian-Democratic movement. It also brings forth specific issues by conducting its own research projects and publishing source material. In addition, it organises scientific conferences and exhibitions, and enjoys a growing visibility on the web.

HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

A central focus of the ACDP lies in securing documents belonging to CDU committees as well as public office holders at the federal, state and EU levels. In 2009, the archive acquired and evaluated a total of 350 linear metres of written material, including letters, pictures, films and posters. In connection with the federal and several state elections, the ACDP obtained written material by different parliamentary groups as well as documents belonging to legislators. Of particular importance were documents of the Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ursula von der Leyen, of former minister Jochen Borchert as well as those of the last president of the East German People's Chamber, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl. Following the elections for the European Parliament, the Member of the European Parliament Elmar Brok turned over his old files.

In addition, the literary bequests of former state prime minister Hans Filbinger, the diaries of Gerhard Stoltenberg and of Paul Pagel, former interior minister of the state of Schleswig-Holstein – which had been believed lost – were acquired by the archive. Part of the archival work was financed with funds provided by the Federal Ministry of the Interior; the European Parliament funded the processing of the documents from MEP Horst Langes. Saving the CDU’s election campaign platform on the Internet – as well as archiving CDU campaign material designed for the federal elections – meant establishing a comprehensive multimedia documentation of the CDU’s election strategy. An overview of archive materials can be seen online; the archive also responds to written or telephone inquiries or research requests, and many individuals also visit the archive. The number of visitors to the reading room more than doubled in comparison to last year.

CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITS

A number of conferences focused on different issues. The traditional meeting by the Krone-Ellwanger Circle took up current political issues in the election year of 2009, while a conference addressed the relationship between "Archives and Christian Democracy in Politics and Contemporary History". A series called "A Colloquy on the
Kohl Era” recalled at the refugees who, after holing up in the German embassy in Prague, were allowed to travel to West Germany; it also analysed impulses for reform during the 1990s. An academic conference titled “From Dictatorship to Democracy – Free Elections as a Sign of Success of the Peaceful Revolution in East Germany” addressed electoral fraud in East Germany and the first free elections there in 1990.

The department planned and presented a number of exhibitions in 2009. One, called the “History of the Constitution and CDU/CSU Members of the Parliamentary Council”, took place during the Day of the KAS at the Academy in Berlin in May 2009; another was held on the occasion of Hans Katzer’s 90th birthday, for which his family provided documents and other items for the exhibition; and one, titled “First Day Covers for the German Presidential Elections”, another commemorated the 20th anniversary of the death of longtime KAS chairman Bruno Heck. Exhibitions also looked back at the lives of CDU politicians Felix von Eckardt, Kurt Schmücker and Manfred Wörner. The travelling exhibition “People with Christian Social Values in the German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB)” will be shown in various locations in 2010, as will the exhibit “Konrad Adenauer and European Integration”, which was booked up during all of 2009.

CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION

The press and media documentation unit provides KAS departments with important reports produced by the print media and television. By documenting published points of view, staff members of the foundation are given the opportunity to review the positions of parties, churches, unions and other social groups – in this way they can obtain a fairly comprehensive picture of the situation. The focus lies on German media, but the most important press organs from abroad are also taken into account.

More than 3,000 inquiries were recorded in 2009. They ranged from queries on cartoons for an exhibition and researching documents on specific people to requesting entire dossiers. The department also continued the digitisation process that had begun in 2008, with the goal of making available clippings – previously only in paper form – that ranged from 1959 to 1993.

LIBRARY

The number of volumes in the library has now reached 176,700. The unique special collection on the history of Christian Democracy is of particular importance for people’s political and academic activities. It is a collection that is constantly being expanded. Currently 17,680 individual documents and 173 periodicals chart the development of the party at federal, state or local level, from 1945 through today.

Among the library’s ongoing tasks are in particular providing books and sources for staff working at home and abroad. These documents are increasingly available in digital form. In 2009, the library documented 20,733 borrowed books and 1,325 orders via inter-library loan.
Because of the many election contests in 2009, along with the celebrations marking sixty years since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany and twenty years since the fall of the wall and the Peaceful Revolution, library staff processed some 1,400 requests and orders. The library supports the foundation’s work by providing literature and documents, researching biographical data and information on special collections, and drawing up selected bibliographies on particular topics and prominent individuals from contemporary history. When carrying out research and assembling documents, the library focused on the history of the CDU and CSU and the party organisational structures, and also looked into the financial crisis; research of individuals looked at the history of former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. Among the private collections the library took over were libraries belonging to Heiner Geißler and Dorothee Wilms.

In the autumn of 2009, the library was renovated in order to expand the reading room surfaces. The aim was to re-assemble collections that had been scattered around the library. This reorganisation enabled the special collections to be organised in a manner that is user-friendly.

**PUBLICATIONS AND THE INTERNET**

New research was released again this year in volume 16 of the *Historisch-Politische Mitteilungen* (Historical-Political Announcements) series. In the series *Forschungen und Quellen* (Researches and Sources on Contemporary History) the following works were brought out: a book by Niels Hansen about Franz Böhm and Ricarda Huch, a volume with the minutes of the CDU’s national leadership council (*Bundesvorstand*) from 1969 to 1973, as well as a three-volume history by Guido Hitze on the CDU’s time in opposition in North-Rhine Westphalia from 1975 to 1995. In the KAS paperback series published by Herder, Hanns Jürgen Küsters’ book *Das Ringen um die deutsche Einheit* (The Battle for German Unification) was issued, as was an anthology edited by Günter Buchstab and Rudolf Uertz, *Geschichtsbilder in Europa* (Views of History across Europe). The volume *Die kulturelle Eigenart Europas* (The Cultural Particularities of Europe) was published in March of 2010.

In January 2009, the most comprehensive website so far developed on the first federal chancellor went online at www.konrad-adenauer.de; it continues to be expanded to this day. Judging by the number of users the web portal received a tremendous response, especially among high school and university students as well as when the portal was presented at the German Archives Day in Regensburg. Currently the webpage www.helmut-kohl.de is being modernised.