

Roper Center for Public Opinion Research **Finding Aid for Andrew Kohut Papers:**

Scope and Content:

The papers include a variety of materials created and collected by Andrew Kohut during his half-century career in the polling industry. He began at the Gallup Organization, left to start Princeton Survey Research Associates, then moved to the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press, and finally became the founding director of the Pew Research Center. He spent the vast majority of his career at Gallup and Pew and held the title of director or president—at whichever organization he was at—from 1979-2013. The collection consists largely of correspondence, clippings and other published material (by Kohut and others), notes/talking points on popular issues of the day, speeches, and polls. The collection also includes assorted media, such as audiotapes, VHS tapes, 3.5" disks, 5.25" floppy disks, and CDs. The collection documents are arranged in 9 series: 1. Audio Visual Materials, 1984-2012; 2. Personal, Honors, Ephemera, 1978-2013; 3. Clippings, Publications, and Assorted Printed Material, 1924-2011; 4. Writings, 1994-2015; 5. Talking Points, Notes, and Reports, 1988-2014; 6. Speeches, 1977-2014; 7. Polls and Surveys, 1976-2012; 8. Gallup Organization Papers, 1978-1990; 9. Miscellaneous Materials, various dates. Note: The records consist of a mix of original documents and photocopies.

Series 4-8 are further arranged in subseries, as follows:

Series 4, Writings, 1994-2015:

Subseries 1, *New York Times* articles written by Andrew Kohut, 1998-2008

Subseries 2, Miscellaneous Andrew Kohut articles/writing, 1994-2015

Series 5, Talking Points, Notes, and Reports, 1988-2014:

Subseries 1, NPR/PBS, 1996-2012

Subseries 2, Council on Foreign Relations, 1995-2011

Subseries 3, Domestic Issues, 1988-2014

Subseries 4, International Issues, 1990-2012

Subseries 5, General/Handwritten, 1978-2010

Series 6, Speeches, 1977-2014:

Subseries 1, Conferences, 1994-2012

Subseries 2, Congressional Hearings and Testimony, 1991-2010

Subseries 3, Presentations, 1977-2014

Series 7, Polls and Surveys 1976-2012:

Subseries 1, Gallup Polls, 1977-1994

Subseries 2, Newsweek Polls, 1976-2004

Subseries 3, Pew Polls, 1999-2012

Subseries 4, Miscellaneous Polls, 1988-2011

Series 8, Gallup Organization Papers, 1978-1990:

Subseries 1, Andrew Kohut Correspondence, 1978-1988

Subseries 2, Diane Colasanto Correspondence, 1983-1990

See **Container Inventory** for more detailed description.

Dates:

- 1924-2015
- Majority of material found within 1976-2014

Creator:

- Kohut, Andrew, 1942-2015 (person)

Language of Materials:

Collection materials are in English.

Conditions Governing Access:

All material in this collection is open to the public.

Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Users are expected to follow to all copyright and other intellectual property laws. Please contact The Roper Center for more information.

Extent:

- 29 linear feet. 50 Hollinger boxes, 4 flat boxes, and 1 clamshell book box.

Biographical Note:

Andrew Kohut was born on September 2, 1942 and grew up in Rochelle Park, New Jersey. He graduated from Seton Hall University in 1964 and enrolled in graduate school at Rutgers University. Kohut left Rutgers in 1966, before graduating, to work for the Gallup Organization. Kohut worked there for 23 years, and was Gallup's president from 1979-1989. In 1989, he left Gallup and founded Princeton Survey Research Associates. Three years later, Kohut became the director of the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press. In 1996, the Pew Charitable Trusts took over sponsorship of the organization and it was renamed the Pew Research Center. Kohut became its first president and remained in that position until 2013. He died on September 8, 2015.

Andrew Kohut was one of the most respected and recognized pollsters in the United States during his long career in the industry. He was a highly sought-after speaker, a frequent guest on both National Public Radio (NPR) and PBS's NewsHour. In later years, he was often featured as a political opinion expert during presidential elections on CNN.

Kohut was in many ways a Washington insider: he had contacts throughout the city and personal relationships with such notables as Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State in the Clinton administration. Beginning in the 1990s, Kohut spoke regularly at CIA and State Department conferences on America's image abroad, as well as on American public opinion of various foreign policy issues. After 9/11, federal agencies and other organizations sought his expertise ever more frequently as they attempted to gauge how Muslims and Muslim nations viewed the United States and the American people.

Kohut's experience and deep understanding of public opinion polling gave him credibility that his fellow pollsters held in high regard. His strong analytical skills, along with his ability to create "gut-check" questions, made him a leader in the polling world.

Kohut was married twice and had two children (Matthew Kohut and Amy Kohut) with his first wife, Marybeth Lyhne. At the time of his death, he was married to Diane Colasanto, whom he had married 16 years earlier.

Separated Materials:

1. Andrew Kohut bobblehead
2. 20 issues of *Public Opinion Quarterly*: 1937 (v.1, #2), 1939 (v.3, #3), 1951 (v.15, #3 & #4), 1952 (v.16, #4), 1955 (v.19, #2, #3, #4), 1956 (v.20, #1), 1957 (v.21, #1 & #2), 1958 (v.22, #2, #3, #4), 1959 (v.23, #2 & #3), 1960 (v.24, #4), 1964 (v.28, #2, #3, #4)
3. 3 boxes of Gallup Organization Surveys
4. 46 books related to polling, politics, et al. Several written by Andrew Kohut.
5. 35 volumes of *The Gallup Poll* (1935-2002)
6. 19 volumes of Gallup Opinion Index, aka Gallup Political Index and Gallup Opinion Report (1965-1983)

Related Names:

- Creator: Kohut, Andrew, 1942-2015 (person)
- Creator: Colasanto, Diane, 1951- (person)

Finding Aid & Administrative Information:

Title: Andrew Kohut Collection

Subtitle: Correspondence, Polls, Speaking, and Writing

Status: Completed

Author: Joe Schill

Date: June 2018

Description rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Language of description: English

Repository Details:

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, Cornell University

<https://ropercenter.cornell.edu>

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