

October 3, 2013

Dear Federal Depository Library Community Colleagues:

As you know, Congress has not passed funding legislation for FY 2014 to allow Government agencies to continue normal operations. Therefore, like all other Federal agencies, the Government Printing Office (GPO) had no recourse but to shut down Tuesday, October 1, 2013. As we explained via email shortly after midnight on October 1 through [FDLP News](#), during a Government shutdown, GPO employees can *only* work on activities directly related to the legislative process, on activities for an orderly shutdown, or to protect property and assets. Given those narrow exceptions, all Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) staff were furloughed. Therefore, GPO, like all Federal agencies, is forced to make very difficult decisions.

Unfortunately, the lapse in FY 2014 funding and resulting shutdown have a direct impact on the **2013 Depository Library Council Meeting and Federal Depository Library Conference** (Meeting and Conference) scheduled for October 21-23. With the continuing uncertainty, and after serious discussions with Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks and Arlene Weible, chair of the Depository Library Council (DLC), we determined the need to cancel the October Meeting and Conference and reschedule it for spring 2014.

We are very aware of, and regret, the impact of this decision—most directly, on those of you who have registered for the conference, rearranged your schedules, and made travel arrangements. We encourage attendees who have made their flight arrangements to contact their carrier and advise that their travel has changed because the conference was cancelled as a result of the Government shutdown. It is up to the carrier, but they may offer you an opportunity to use your ticket for a later date.

In addition, many of you have spent a great deal of time preparing presentations, planning sessions, creating posters, and submitting photographs for the conference. Thank you for your willingness to share your experiences, knowledge, and creativity with your colleagues in the depository library community. We are also very grateful to Arlene Weible and members of the DLC for their time working with us to prepare conference programs. I want all of you to know that your work is not in vain because the conference will be rescheduled for the spring.

A handful of staff are in the office *today only* to notify conference attendees and speakers of the cancellation. We are offering speakers the opportunity to present their program at the spring 2014 Meeting & Conference, or virtually before the spring meeting. When a FY 2014 appropriations bill is enacted and LSCM staff return to work, we will begin planning the spring Meeting & Conference and a series of virtual training sessions. The virtual sessions will include the scheduled programs on the summary and recommendations of the Forecast Study, the National Plan, DLC- facilitated Focused Discussions, LSCM Updates, and other sessions scheduled for the October conference.

We understand how important and valued our annual conference is to you, as it is to all of us here at GPO. For many of you, it is your premier annual event and opportunity for training, networking, sharing information, and collaborating on the development of your skills in support of the Federal Depository Library Program.

In a message to all GPO staff on Monday, September 30, Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks reminded us that the furloughs are in no way a reflection on our staff, on the excellent work performed by GPO, or on GPO's record of service to the Nation. And that we at GPO will get through this difficult time together.

In the same vein, we thank our FDLP colleagues for your dedication and commitment, on a daily basis, in helping us fulfill James Madison's vision for an informed citizenry and the GPO mission, Keeping America Informed. We appreciate your understanding during these difficult days when the agency is shut down. We are especially grateful for your support in serving the Government information needs of the American public so well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Alice Baish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARY ALICE BAISH
Superintendent of Documents