



# TUTORIAL 18

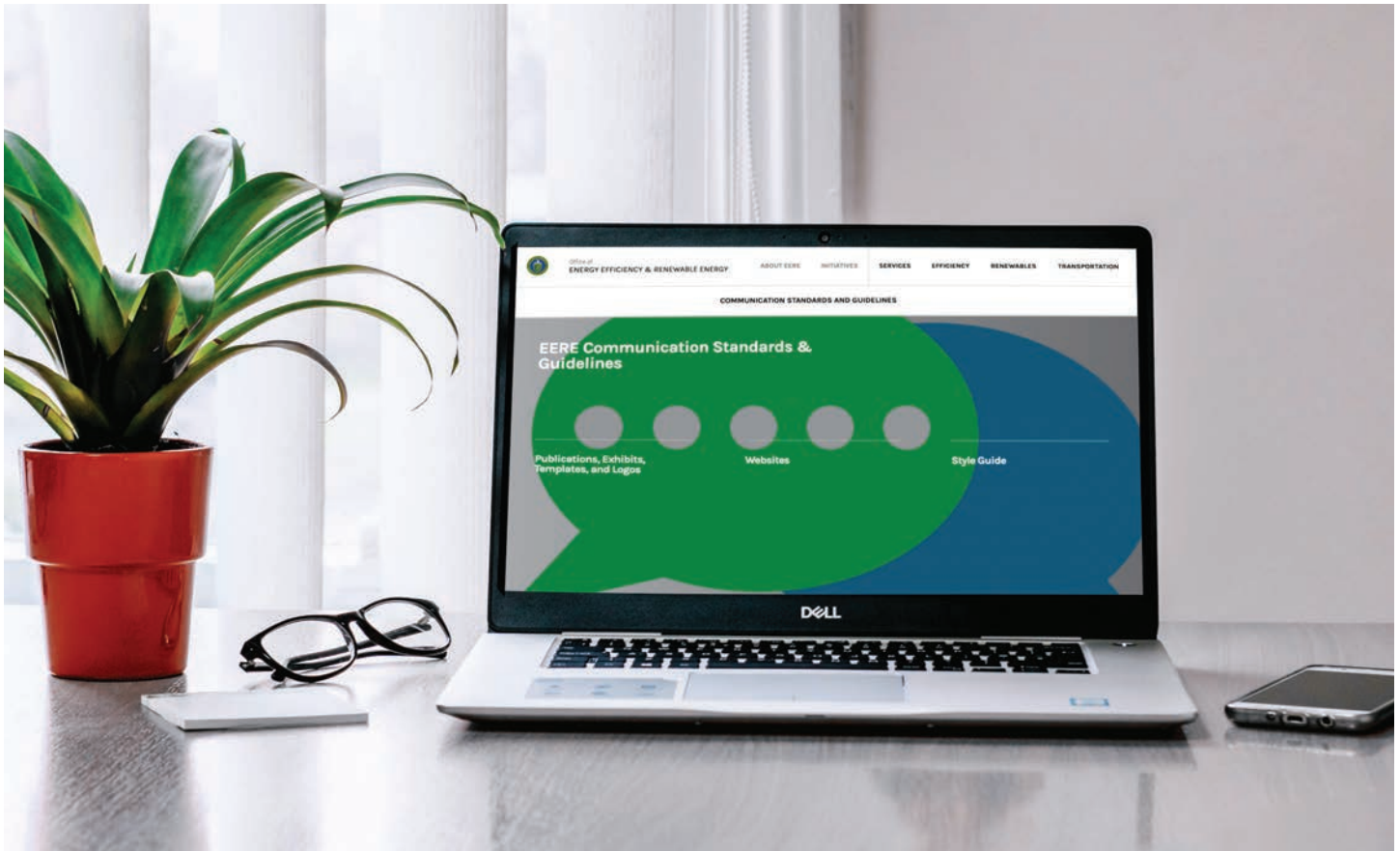
## The Importance of a Good Bibliography

### REVIEWING REFERENCE MATERIALS

By this point in the proposal preparation process, applicants understand that the Department of Energy (DOE) is truly looking for innovative solutions to pressing problems identified in the Topics document. In fact, to help potential applicants understand the context for each Topic and subtopic, DOE frequently includes references to relevant literature, as well as links to research being conducted by sponsoring DOE program offices. It is important that applicants review all the reference materials that DOE has provided relative to a topic/subtopic pair of interest, before beginning to formulate a response and prepare an application package.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY LENGTH

To demonstrate that your work is innovative, it is useful to reference additional literature in your application. However, keep in mind that the bibliography is NOT a separate document, but is an element of the Project Narrative. As such, the bibliography does contribute to the 15-page limit for the Project Narrative – so a lengthy list of citations is not recommended, but an appropriate list related to the problem and more importantly, to your solution is recommended. In a review of a sample of winning proposals, the average number of citations included in the Bibliography was nine. However, please also note that in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), DOE clarifies that the bibliography is optional.



## SCITECH DATABASE

A variety of resources may be of assistance in expanding your knowledge of research in areas related to the topic/subtopic pair you have selected. The most useful is a database called SciTech, produced by the DOE's Office of Science (<http://www.osti.gov/scitech/>).

The link to this resource is available both in the pdf version, as well as in the Links section of this tutorial. Even if space constraints ultimately lead you to exclude a bibliography from the project narrative, it is recommended that as you formulate your proposal, you do so in light of the literature. It is always important to assure that you understand the state of the art which a good literature review will confirm.

## CITATION FORMAT

Once you have expanded your research and selected several relevant citations to include in your bibliography, the question becomes what format

you should use for the citations. For this purpose, it is recommended that you use the online Communication Standards and Guidelines from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE).

Please see: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/communicationstandards/eere-communication-standards-guidelines>

In closing, keep in mind that your bibliography is part of the project narrative and therefore does contribute to the page count. Even if you decide to exclude the optional bibliography because of page limitations, make sure that you have conducted a thorough literature review while preparing your project narrative.

**For citation format, EERE's Communication Standards and Guidelines is recommended.**