Cal Poly Art and Design

Adobe Lightroom Catalog Basics

An overview and beginning information about Adobe Lightroom Catalog understanding and use.

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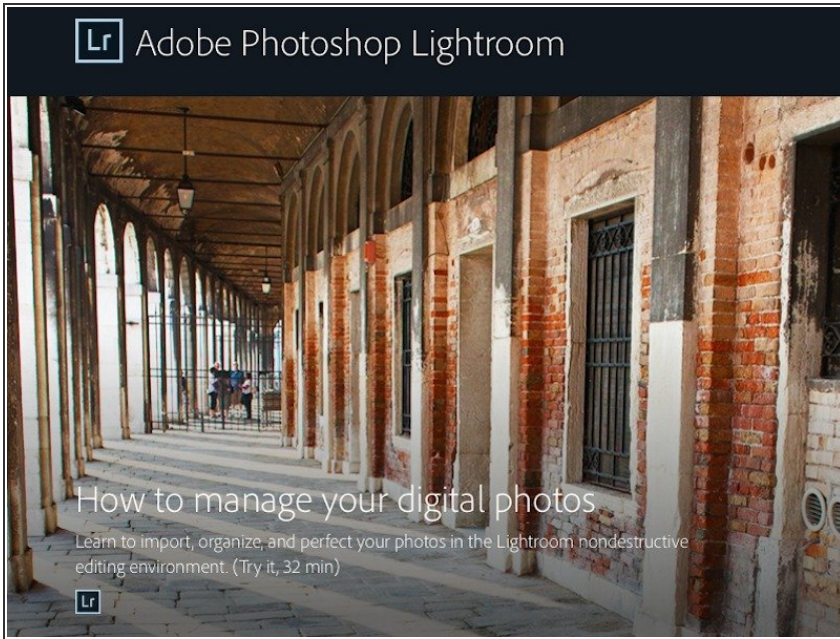
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INTRODUCTION

Understanding structure and best use practices of the Adobe Lightroom Catalog can be challenging for new users.

Adobe provides great professional help to get you started. The basic **Lightroom Catalog** definition is included below, but to gain a full understanding of the complex options and features, please review this helpful Adobe video tutorials and links:

- [The Lightroom Catalog](#) overview video

- More Adobe Lightroom videos are available here: [How to manage your digital photos](#)

- [Adobe Lightroom keyboard shortcuts](#)

- [Adobe Lightroom FAQs](#)

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Step 1 — Understanding the Catalog

- What's in a catalog?

- A catalog is a database that stores a record for each of your photos. This record contains three key pieces of information about each photo:

  - **A reference to where the photo is on your system**

  - **Instructions for how you want to process the photo**

  - **Metadata, such as ratings and keywords that you apply to photos to help you find or organize them**

- 📌 Your images are **NOT** saved in the Catalog; only referenced by it.

- ⓘ For more info, please see the [Adobe Ligthtroom Catalog page](#).

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