

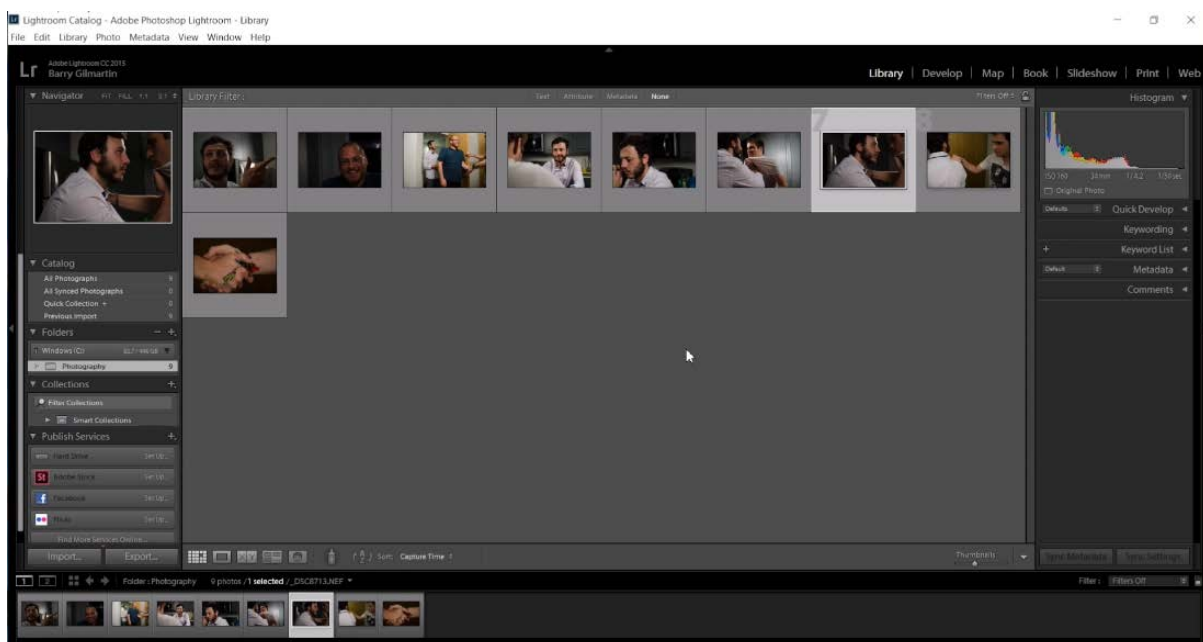
Topic 8 – Introduction to Lightroom

Learning Outcomes

In this lesson, I want to introduce you to Lightroom, another very useful photo editing tool from Adobe. By the end of this lesson, you will be able to open Lightroom and to navigate the interface.

Opening Lightroom

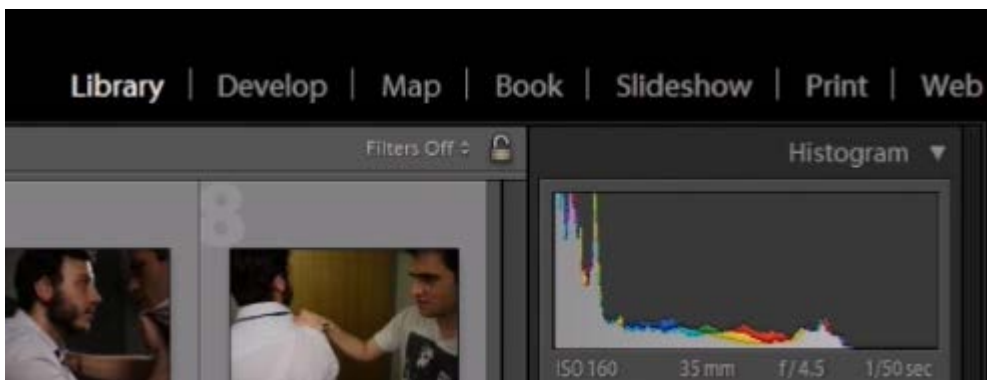
Lightroom was created for photographers and its features revolve around the camera. Lightroom is a bit different than Photoshop in this way in that its layout is specifically designed for working with photographs. With digital photography, it's very exciting to be able to go out and capture our images instantaneously. However, one small drawback with this digital capture is that we generally compile a lot of files. Sometimes, we need a tool which allows us to manage our photographs and to work with all of our work. This is where Lightroom really thrives and we'll demonstrate that in this lesson.



Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

Lightroom ensures that we do two things very well. Firstly, we can organize and manage our photographs and video files. Secondly, we can edit and improve these files, and then we can export and share our files. Lightroom might look overwhelming but if you bear these three things in mind you will do just fine. That's because the way that Lightroom is built is all around the camera. The first thing that you will notice about Lightroom is that when you close the program, it will open in the same manner in which it was closed. Let's quickly close the program so you can see what I mean.

Let's note the basic layout of the interface. We have these top menu items, which includes our selection of modules. We also have this side panel on our left, another panel on our right and our content is located in the middle of the screen. We also have this bottom bar, which acts like a film strip series. As you run along it, a series of images changes here in this area.



Lightroom is comprised of five main modules and these modules will dictate your workflow. The five main modules are: Library, Develop, Slideshow, Print and Web. Map and Book are relatively new features in Lightroom.

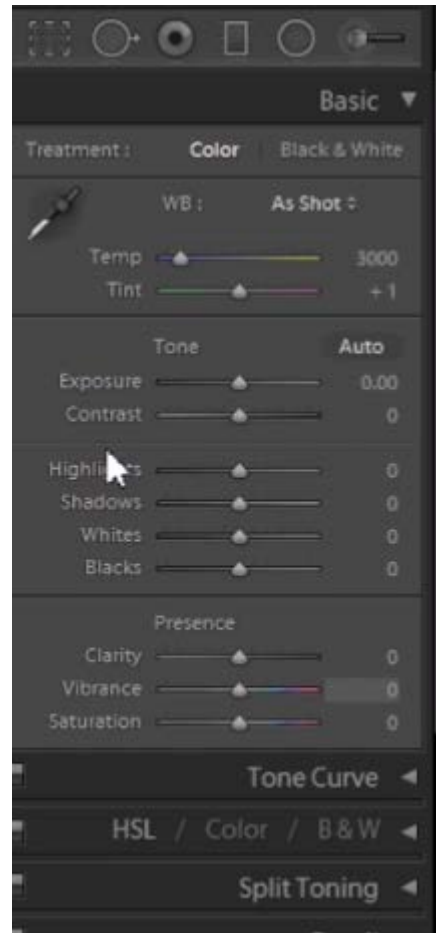
Let's take some time to go through each one. Each of these modules allows us to achieve different tasks. The **Library** module, allows us to organize, store and manage our photographs. Here, we give file names, tags and we can amend metadata



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associated with our images. The Metadata is very useful, given the fact that it allows you to look at the what camera you used to shoot the photograph, the mm of the lens used and so on. This information is key when dealing with the finer details of digital photography.

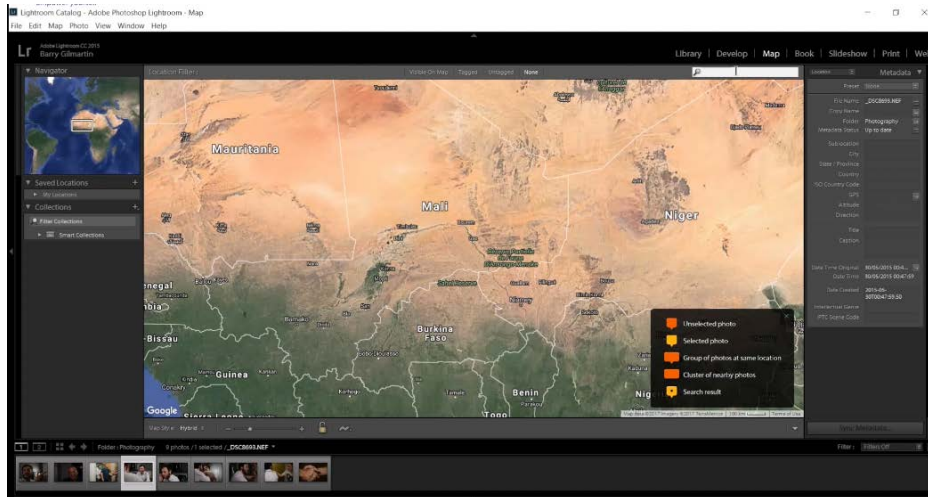
Let's jump over to the **Develop** module. This is where the magic happens. You can edit and improve your images. We can adjust values such as exposure and contrast, highlights and shadows as well as clarity, vibrance and saturation. We also have these presets here on the left-hand side of our screen. We can scroll over them and preview what the changes might look like, in this little window above on the left panel. If we want to see the effects of the preset on a larger scale, simply click on the option and the effect immediately occurs in your content area. CTRL + Z to undo this, or Command + Z for Mac users.



Let's take a quick look at the **Slideshow** module. We have similar sections with different options available. We have left, right, bottom and the main content area. We also have the **print** area, which allows you to define different types of template and the attributes associated with each template on our right-hand side. The **web** module, allows you to build webpages and allows you to upload your web pages via FTP to your choice of website and server. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol. This isn't something that we will be looking specifically at in this course, but is another very useful feature of Adobe Lightroom.



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I mentioned that we have two newer modules in Lightroom. Let's look at the **Map** module. This is useful as it lets you see or mark where your photos were taken. Photos tagged with GPS coordinates will appear in the map. You can use the search box to find a specific location. Again, it's another really good example of how advanced technology has become.

The **book** module lets you design books that can be uploaded and printed through the self-publishing vendor Blurb, or printed locally as PDFs. This new feature in Lightroom works a bit like In-Design, another Adobe package that you may come across at some time.

Why is Lightroom such a wildly popular tool? Firstly, Lightroom has taken something which is really complicated, that's photographic workflow, and rendered it simple. Consequently, this increases the speed of our workflow. Lightroom gives us the ability to be able to achieve professional results. The next question you will hear, or maybe you're thinking about it already and that is "Should I use Lightroom or Photoshop?" This isn't a simple answer and there isn't any one clear winner. Whenever we can use Lightroom and Photoshop together, we'll be able to achieve the better results. achieve. Feel free to add filters and experiment with as many styles as you please.



Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

What have we learned today? A Summary

So, what have we learned in this lesson? We have learned how the history panel in Photoshop works and how beneficial it can be to have a good understanding of how it works. We've learned the shortcut for moving backwards in Photoshop for both Windows and Mac users. We also now know that, when you close the file, the history will be deleted.

