THE LIGHTROOM SESSIONS

OUTLINE

These sessions are intended to introduce lightroom through a quick start review. Which means not every aspect of Lightroom will be covered. More detailed, future, sessions may be conducted if there's demand.

The quick start review is based on Victoria Brampton's *"Lightroom Classic CC Quick Start"* which is free to download from here: https://www.lightroomqueen.com/quickstart/ It's a pdf file of about 60 pages. The lightroom queen's website is a great place to get information about lightroom – from very basic to very advanced. The paid for e-books are also worthwhile.

The approach will be on using Lightroom the slow and steady way, usually via the menus, rather than using lots of shortcuts and procedures that are hard to remember or are "under the hood".

But…here's a link to a list of current shortcuts for Lightroom Classic CC just in case you are interested: https://www.lightroomqueen.com/keyboard-shortcuts/

DATES

These are the proposed dates in 2018 for the sessions: 9 July, 6 August, 20 August, 3 September, 15 October

ASSUMPTIONS

Computer experience - If you have previously used Photoshop or another image editing program including the basic ones that come with either windows or apple computers and been OK with it, but not an expert, you should have enough computer knowledge for lightroom.

FILE TYPES

Lightroom does not care what file types your camera produces; jpg, tiff, dng or RAW. Lightroom is regularly updated to be able to process RAW files produced by all cameras but to check yours is covered you can review this page:

https://helpx.adobe.com/au/camera-raw/kb/camera-raw-plug-supported-cameras.html

It's unlikely that a camera is not covered. Note that the page says 'Cameras Supported by Camera Raw' – that is the same as Lightroom.

MATERIALS

You can bring your laptop along if you wish and follow along. Anything else you need will be covered in the sessions as we move through them.

However, session 1 is more show and tell so the laptop probably won't be useful.

The topics will be demonstrated on a larger screen as we work through them. Alternatively, you can take notes and practice at home by following through *"Lightroom Classic CC Quick Start"* and make notes of any issues and bring them along to the next session for discussion.

Depending on questions and discussions there may end up being additional sessions to get everything covered.

SESSION 1

The first session will be about setting yourself up for success with Lightroom. It assumes absolutely no experience or familiarity with lightroom. BUT it will assume you know your way around your computer.

People with some exposure to lightroom might prefer to start with session 2.

The topics to be covered:

- Which version of lightroom (there are two – Lightroom Classic and Lightroom CC we'll focus on Lightroom Classic and just call it Lightroom or LR)
- Overview of Installing LR (actual installation to be done at home)
- Basic terminology in LR
- Organising yourself for using LR – some decisions:
    o Where should the LR catalogue be stored?
    o Where will your photos be stored?
    o How will you organise your photos (no need to re-organise what you already do though, if you already have some way of organising your photos!)
    o How (or will) and why you might re-name your photos
- Basic LR workflow and overview of LR's panels and modules.
- What to do and bring along for session 2

HOMEWORK

Download and install LR, tidy up your current photo folders if you need too, access and download the lightroom queen's quick start guide if you like to have a 'text book', consider the decisions required to be organised. Review your backup processes!

SESSION 2

Session 2 is where we start using lightroom and using LR's cataloguing and sorting to get organised so it's easy to find your photos in years to come.

You might like to bring along your Laptop with Lightroom installed and a camera card or USB stick with about 10 or so photos on it.

Topics to be covered include from the Library and Map modules:

- Questions or issues from Session 1
- Refresh of the basic LR workflow shown in session 1
- Getting photos into LR (importing)
    o Getting (copying) your photos from your camera's card to your computer
    o Adding photos, you already have on your computer to LR
    o The features of the import module – many of them help with making your work flow quicker and more automated but don't have to be used. We'll focus on the basic ones.
- Review some of LR's preferences

- Viewing your photos and folders in LR and on the hard drive
- Selecting your photos, rating systems, colour coding.
- Creating stacks (of photos) e.g. that will be stitched into a panorama
- Create Collections and working with them
- Metadata about your photos and adding keywording
- Review a catalogue of about 80,000 images and how it's organised and discussion about how LR can help you organise your photos so you can:
  - Find them later
  - Have them organised into collections of, for example, your best images or those submitted to PWCC competitions
  - Keywording versus collections
  - Help you work through large numbers of photos efficiently from, for example, a trip

HOMEWORK

Import at least 50+ of your photos into LR. Select the best and worst 10 or so and put them in 1 or more collections. Setup your own rating/ colour coding system. Rate some photos.

SESSION 3

Session 3 will be about finding and filtering photos in the Library module and starting to edit photos using global adjustments (effect the whole photo) in the Develop module.

Bring your laptop with some photos added to the lightroom catalogue as per the homework for session 2.

The topics to be covered from the Library and Develop modules:

- Questions or issues from Session 2
- Sorting and filtering
  - Changing sort order
  - Using filters (text, attribute and metadata – data filters not photo or editing filters)
  - Creating and using smart collections
- Global adjustments
  - Basic image adjustments for colour, we'll look at black and white conversions later – profile, exposure, white balance, highlights and shadows, whites and blacks, clarity, contrast, vibrance and saturation
  - Cropping and straightening
  - Spot removal
  - Sharpening and noise reduction
  - Fixing distortions – Lens corrections
  - Fixing distortions – Transformations
  - Effects – Vignetting and grain
  - Tone curve, HSL, Split toning
  - 'Undoing' and history; before and after

HOMEWORK

Edit 3 images in LR (or more!). If you have issues or questions bring them along to the next session

SESSION 4

Session 4 will be about editing photos using local adjustments (effect a part of the photo) in the develop module. Also, black and white adjustments, applying the same setting(s) to multiple photos.

Bring your Laptop. You should now have a Lightroom catalogue on it with some photos in the catalogue and be ready to continue developing them.

The topics covered from the Develop module:

- Questions or issues from Session 3
- Local Adjustments
    - Virtual copies
    - Local adjustments - Gradient, radial and brush adjustments
- Black and White adjustments
    - Profiles
    - B & W panel
    - Split Toning
- Copying settings to other photos; Sync and Auto Sync
- Saving settings to apply to other photos – Pre-sets
- Creating Panoramas from more than 1 image (stitching)
- Editing in external programs
    - Photoshop integration and Photoshop Elements integration
    - Other external editors e.g. Nik, Luminar 2018

HOMEWORK

Edit a photo from lightroom in photoshop or your external editor of choice assuming you have access to one. Create a black and white image and split tone it. Again, any issues or questions bring them along to the next session.

SESSION 5

Session 5 will cover 'saving' finished photos and using the print module. We'll also look at some features not covered in this quick start that you may be interested in covering in future sessions.

Bring your Laptop. You should now have a Lightroom catalogue on it with some finished photos in the catalogue. We won't be producing actual prints

The topics covered:

- Questions or issues from Session 4
- Exporting images (what LR calls saving)
    - Types of exports e.g. to send to a print lab or to make say, a Memento book in Memento's software.
    - Saving export parameters as a pre-set
    - Setting up an export pre-set for submitting digital images to PWCC competitions
- Printing your images on a printer at home
    - The Print Module

- o   Templates
- o   Page and Printer set up
- o   Setting colour management options or let the printer handle it.
- Discuss what we might cover in more detail in future session if there's demand for it

HOMEWORK

Start using lightroom!