Adobe Lightroom for Model Railroaders

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St. Louis RPM
August 12-13, 2016

What this presentation is and is not

Lightroom is a very complex software tool. Providing a complete view plus instruction about using it is simply impossible within the constraints of a short presentation. This presentation is intended to highlight some of the capabilities as they pertain to model railroaders and railroad researchers and historians. It is not intended to make attendees experts or users. If you think LR is a fit for your needs, check to see if your local community college or arts center offers an introductory class.

What is Lightroom?

- Database style photo management tool
- Files may be imported
- Robust keyword “tagging”
- Strong develop tools, e.g. digital darkroom
- Exceptional printing capabilities
- Easy export functionality
- LR is *NOT* Photoshop
- The only professional Adobe app you can still buy outright as opposed to pay as you go

Why Photoshop?

Photoshop was developed (over 25 years ago) for and evolved to serve the needs of graphic and/or print artists seeking a tool to allow manipulation of photos. It has industry-leading tools to achieve this aim. It was *not* created to serve the needs of photographers or other professionals seeking a tool to manage large quantities of photos. Photoshop does not incorporate file management so users must fall back on standard folder/file name “management”

Why Lightroom?

Lightroom offers several key functions to serve the needs of those managing large numbers of images.

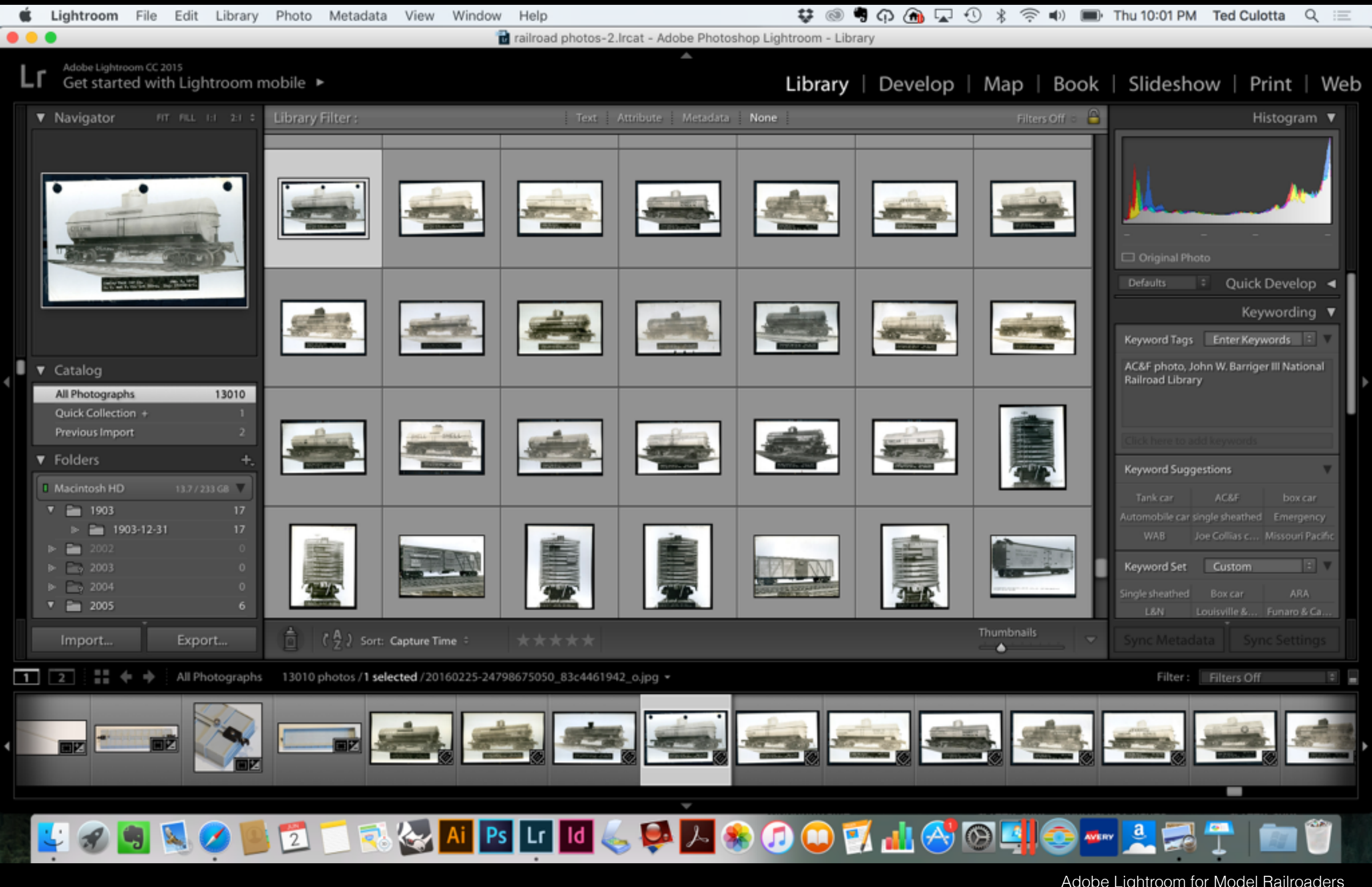
- A logical file management structure to quickly import and catalog files for ease of use in future
- The ability to easily find images based upon keyword searches or other criteria such as rating and flagging
- Robust, “non-destructive” develop tools that are more than adequate for most users, even professionals, including soft-proofing to emulate prints
- Industry-leading print driver that manages both printer and paper to produce optimal prints

Library View

Lightroom offers several key functions to serve the needs of those managing large numbers of images.

- Import (direct from camera or browse)
- Keywords
- Rating or flagging
- File Mangement
- Light box or image views
- Search (light box view)
- Rotate

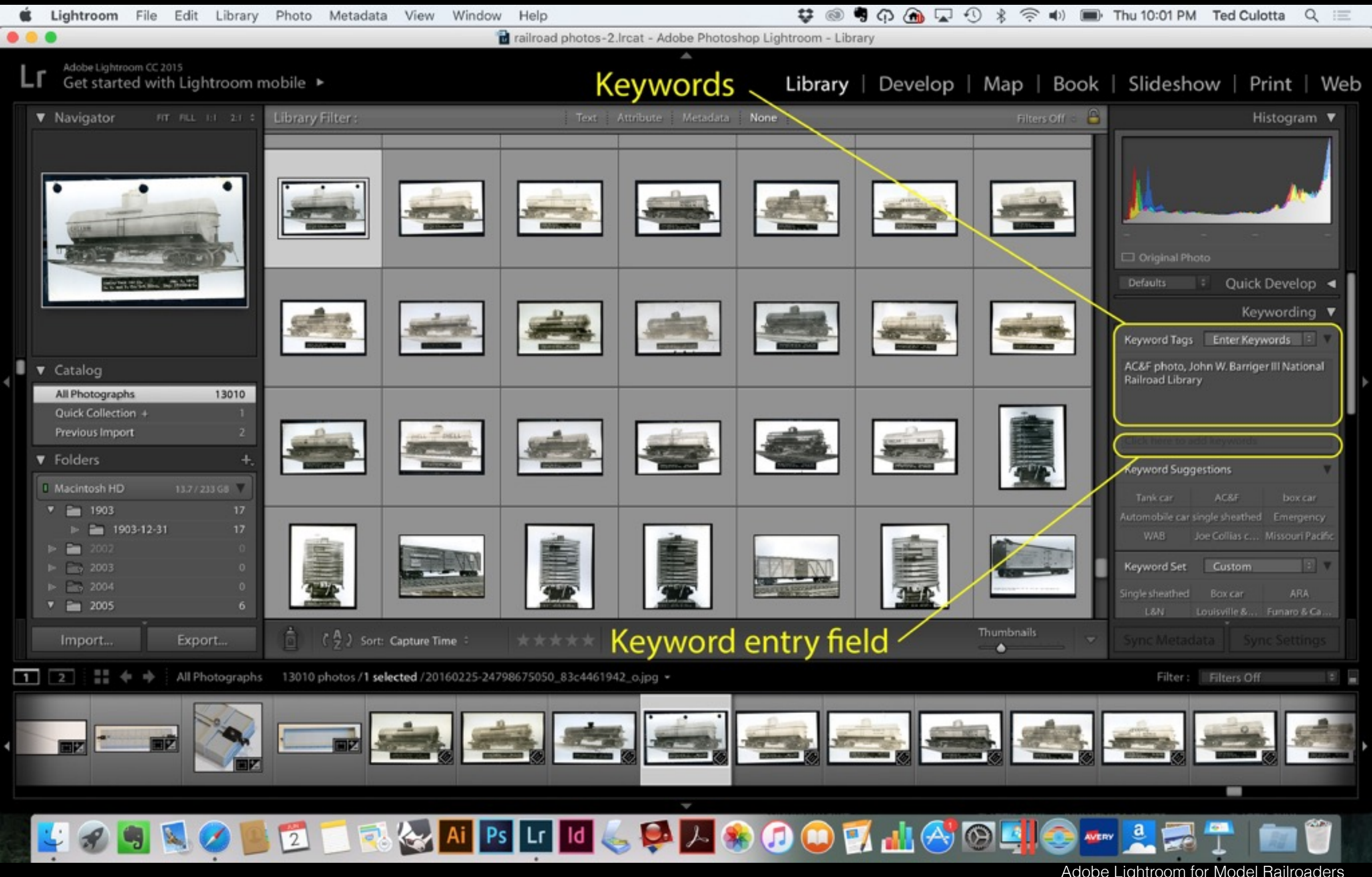
Library - “Lightbox” View



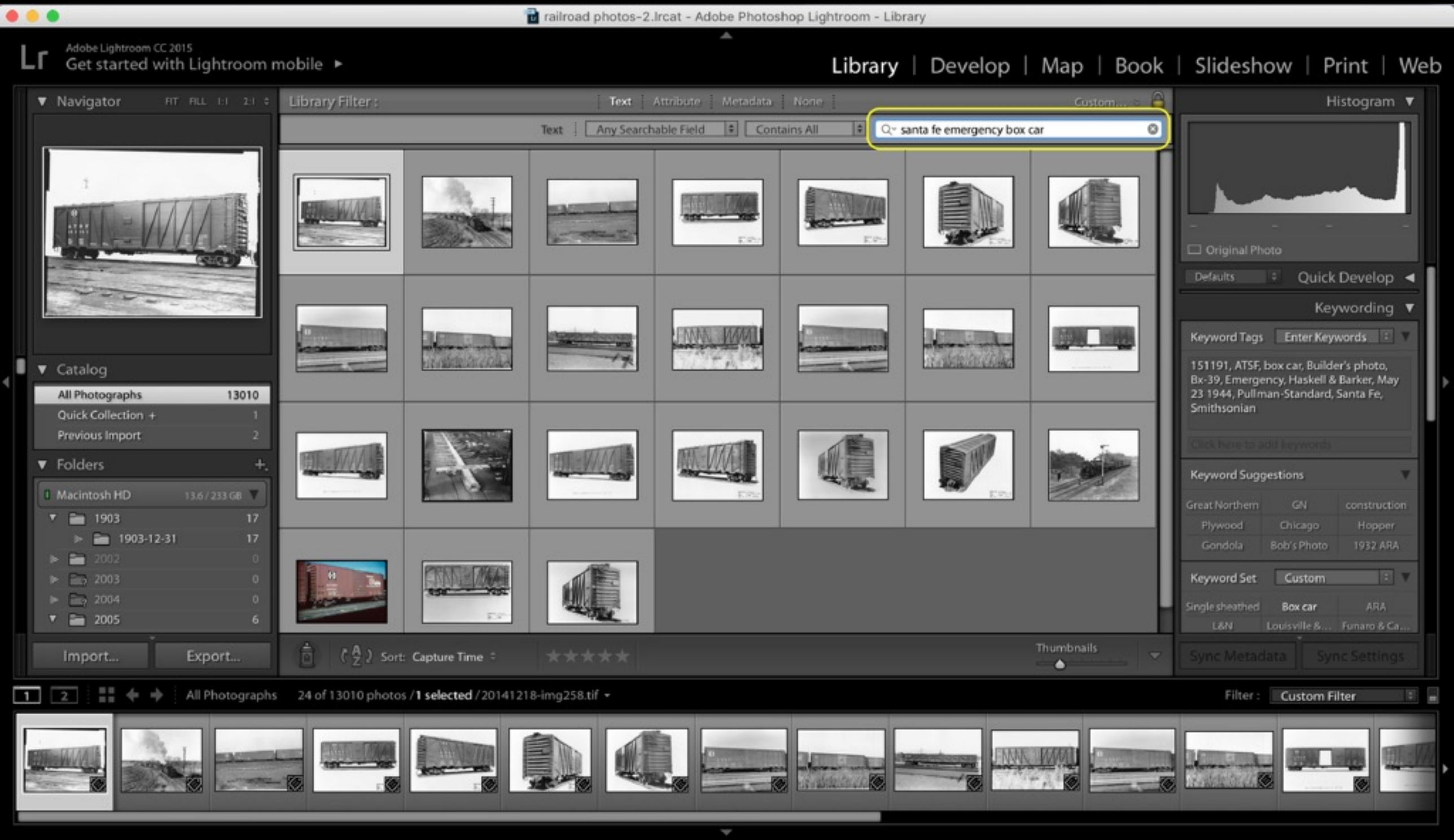
Library - “Image” View

Library - Search

Library - Keywords



Library - Keyword Search



Library - Folders

Library - Folders

VERY IMPORTANT!

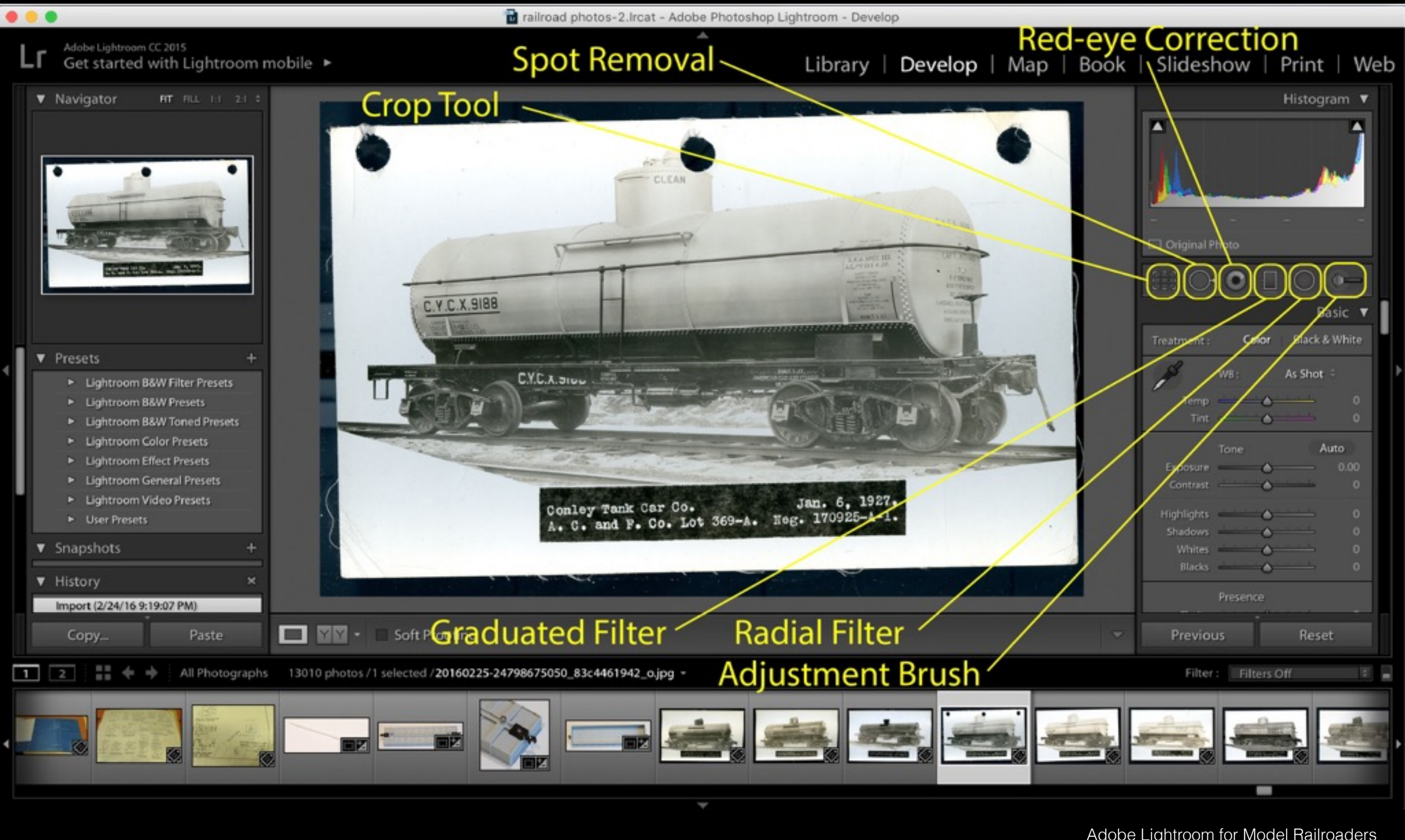
All file moves and management should occur *within* LR or if done outside LR, you should *immediately* go into LR to “point” LR to the new file location(s). One of the strengths of LR is its ability to provide file management; moving files “outside” of LR can lead to lost links to files, rendering the file management capabilities useless.

Develop View

Lightroom uses *non-destructive* developing tools. Non-destructive means that the underlying file is not modified; only the view of the file is modified, akin to filters. This is a major difference from Photoshop and makes multiple developments, changes, etc., easy. It is difficult to stress how important it is that the underlying file is not adjusted during the process!

Develop View

Develop Tools



Develop Tools

Develop Tool Functions

- Crop tool - remove unwanted portions of an image and make adjustments like rotation
- Spot removal - to clean up unwanted blemishes such as dust, dead pixels, scratches, etc. (this is an area where Photoshop has clearly superior tools where complex adjustments are necessary using the Clone and Healing tools).
- Red eye correction
- Graduated filter, e.g. graduated neutral density (ND) filter
- Radial filter
- Adjustment brush - allows for complex selection and dodging and burning
- Level, hue, saturation, luminance, sharpening, lens adjustments tools

Develop Tool Functions

Two other important tools (from this user's perspective!) are:

- Soft-Proofing, which is the ability to develop an image for a specific printer and paper combination, almost entirely eliminating the "develop and pray" scenario when one hits the print button
- Virtual copy - you can create as many "views" of an image as you like, allowing you to develop the same image for different purposes without creating multiple "real" and different files.

Develop Tools

Virtual Copy - right click on image and click from pop-up menu

Develop Tools

Soft Proofing - click the box

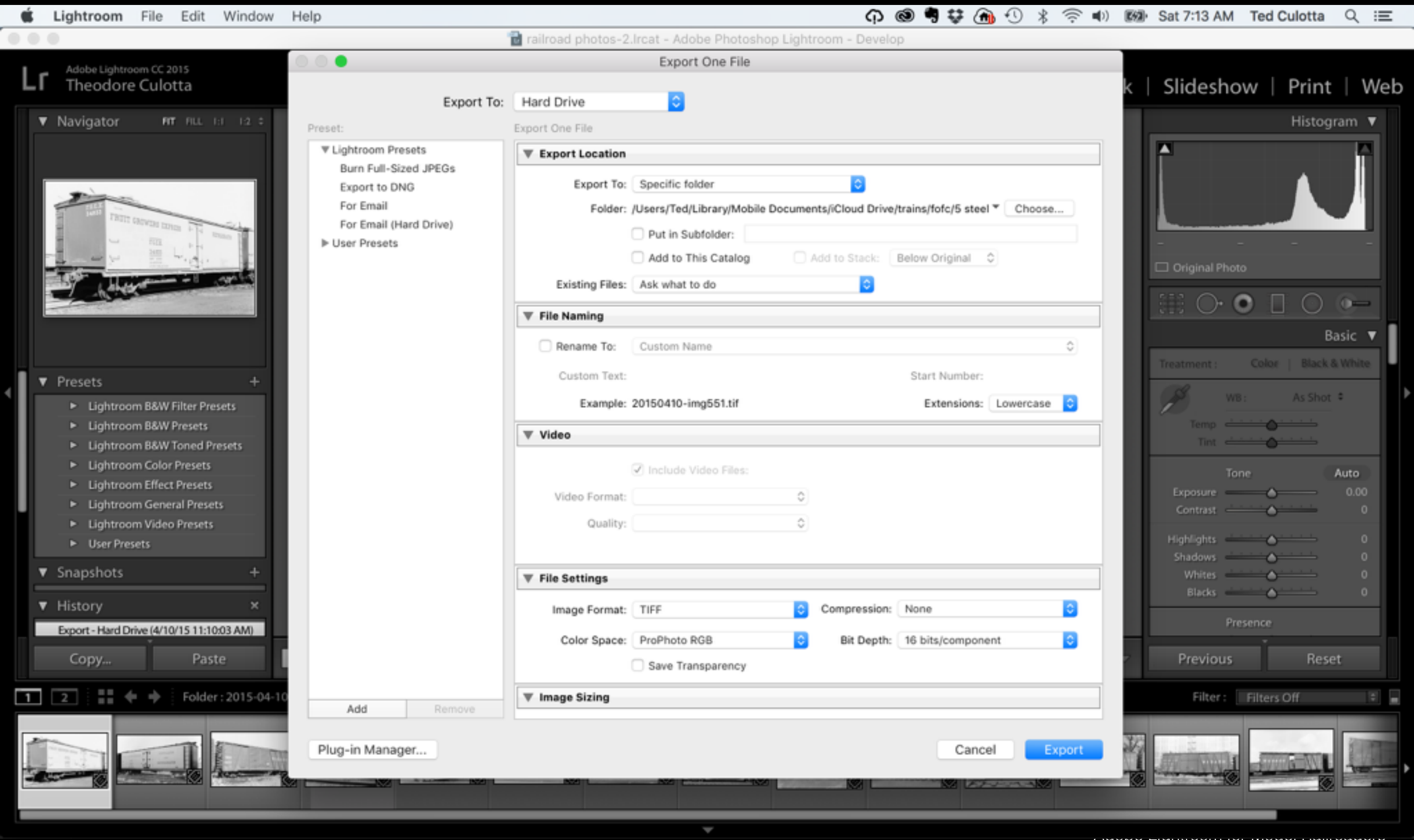
Before
After

File Export

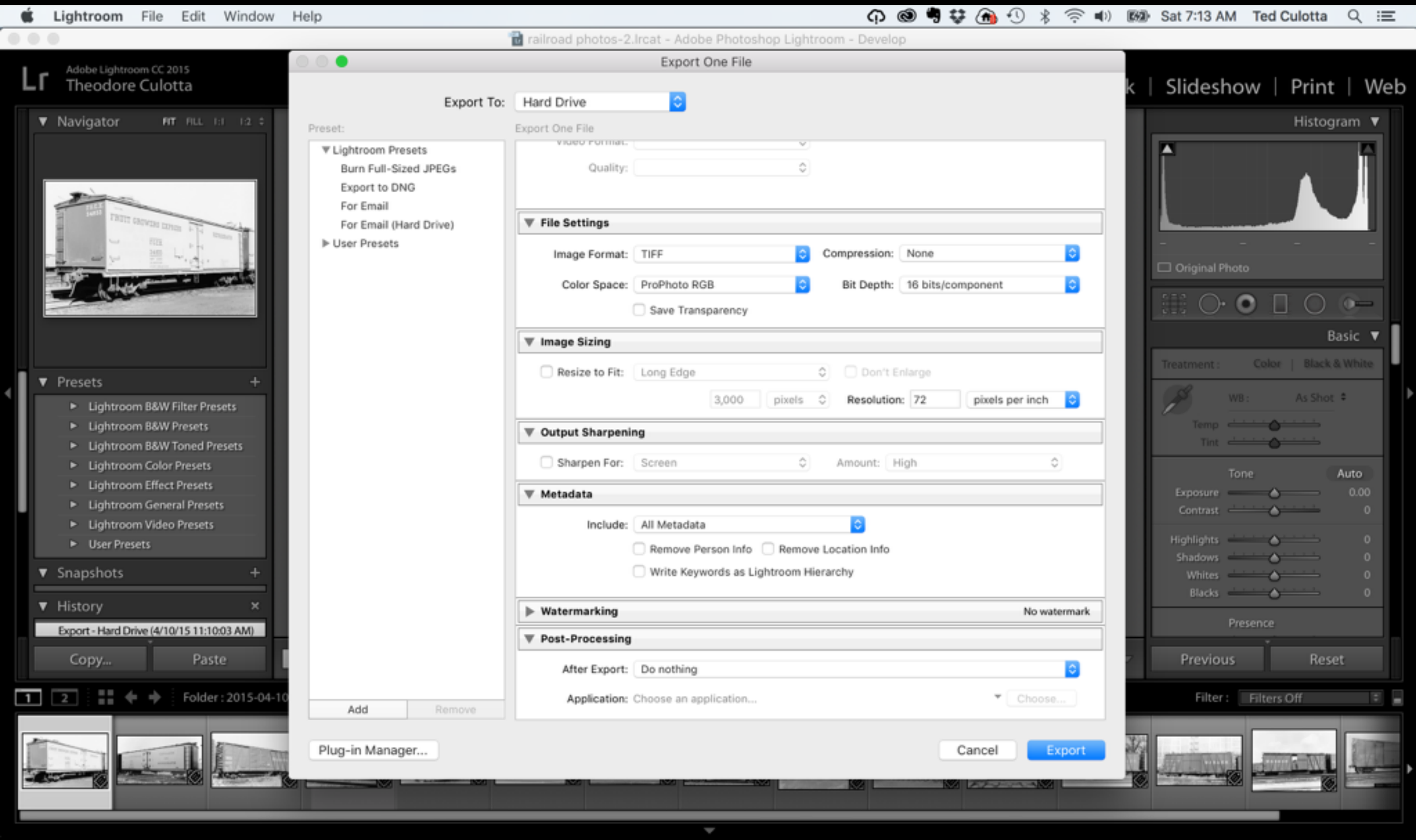
Lightroom allows the user to select one or many images to export with multiple settings, including file naming, location, settings, sizing, sharpening, watermarking, etc.

An exported image is an *entirely new* file, *outside* of Lightroom, that *contains all of the changes* made in Lightroom.

File Export


Lightroom File Edit Window Help
Sat 7:13 AM Ted Culotta
railroad photos-2.lrcat - Adobe Photoshop Lightroom - Develop
Adobe Lightroom CC 2015
Theodore Culotta
Navigator FIT FILL 1:1 1:2
Presets
Lightroom B&W Filter Presets
Lightroom B&W Presets
Lightroom B&W Toned Presets
Lightroom Color Presets
Lightroom Effect Presets
Lightroom General Presets
Lightroom Video Presets
User Presets
Snapshots
History
Export - Hard Drive (4/10/15 11:10:03 AM)
Copy...
Paste
Export One File
Export To: Hard Drive
Preset:
Lightroom Presets
Burn Full-Sized JPEGs
Export to DNG
For Email
For Email (Hard Drive)
User Presets
Export One File
Export Location
Export To: Specific folder
Folder: /Users/Ted/Library/Mobile Documents/iCloud Drive/trains/fofc/5 steel
Choose...
Put in Subfolder:
Add to This Catalog
Add to Stack: Below Original
Existing Files: Ask what to do
File Naming
Rename To: Custom Name
Custom Text:
Start Number:
Example: 20150410-img551.tif
Extensions: Lowercase
Video
Include Video Files:
Video Format:
Quality:
File Settings
Image Format: TIFF
Compression: None
Color Space: ProPhoto RGB
Bit Depth: 16 bits/component
Save Transparency
Image Sizing
Add
Remove
Plug-in Manager...
Cancel
Export
Slideshow | Print | Web
Histogram
Original Photo
Basic
Treatment : Color | Black & White
WB : As Shot
Temp
Tint
Tone
Auto
Exposure 0.00
Contrast 0
Highlights 0
Shadows 0
Whites 0
Blacks 0
Presence
Previous
Reset
Filter : Filters Off

File Export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Slideshow | Print | Web
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Lightroom B&W Toned Presets
Lightroom Color Presets
Lightroom Effect Presets
Lightroom General Presets
Lightroom Video Presets
User Presets
Snapshots
History
Export - Hard Drive (4/10/15 11:10:03 AM)
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Treatment : Color | Black & White
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Exposure 0.00
Contrast 0
Highlights 0
Shadows 0
Whites 0
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Export One File
Export To: Hard Drive
Preset:
Export One File
Lightroom Presets
Burn Full-Sized JPEGs
Export to DNG
For Email
For Email (Hard Drive)
User Presets
Add
Remove
Quality:
File Settings
Image Format: TIFF
Compression: None
Color Space: ProPhoto RGB
Bit Depth: 16 bits/component
Save Transparency
Image Sizing
Resize to Fit: Long Edge
Don't Enlarge
3,000 pixels
Resolution: 72 pixels per inch
Output Sharpening
Sharpen For: Screen
Amount: High
Metadata
Include: All Metadata
Remove Person Info
Remove Location Info
Write Keywords as Lightroom Hierarchy
Watermarking
No watermark
Post-Processing
After Export: Do nothing
Application: Choose an application...
Choose...
Plug-in Manager...
Cancel
Export

Print View

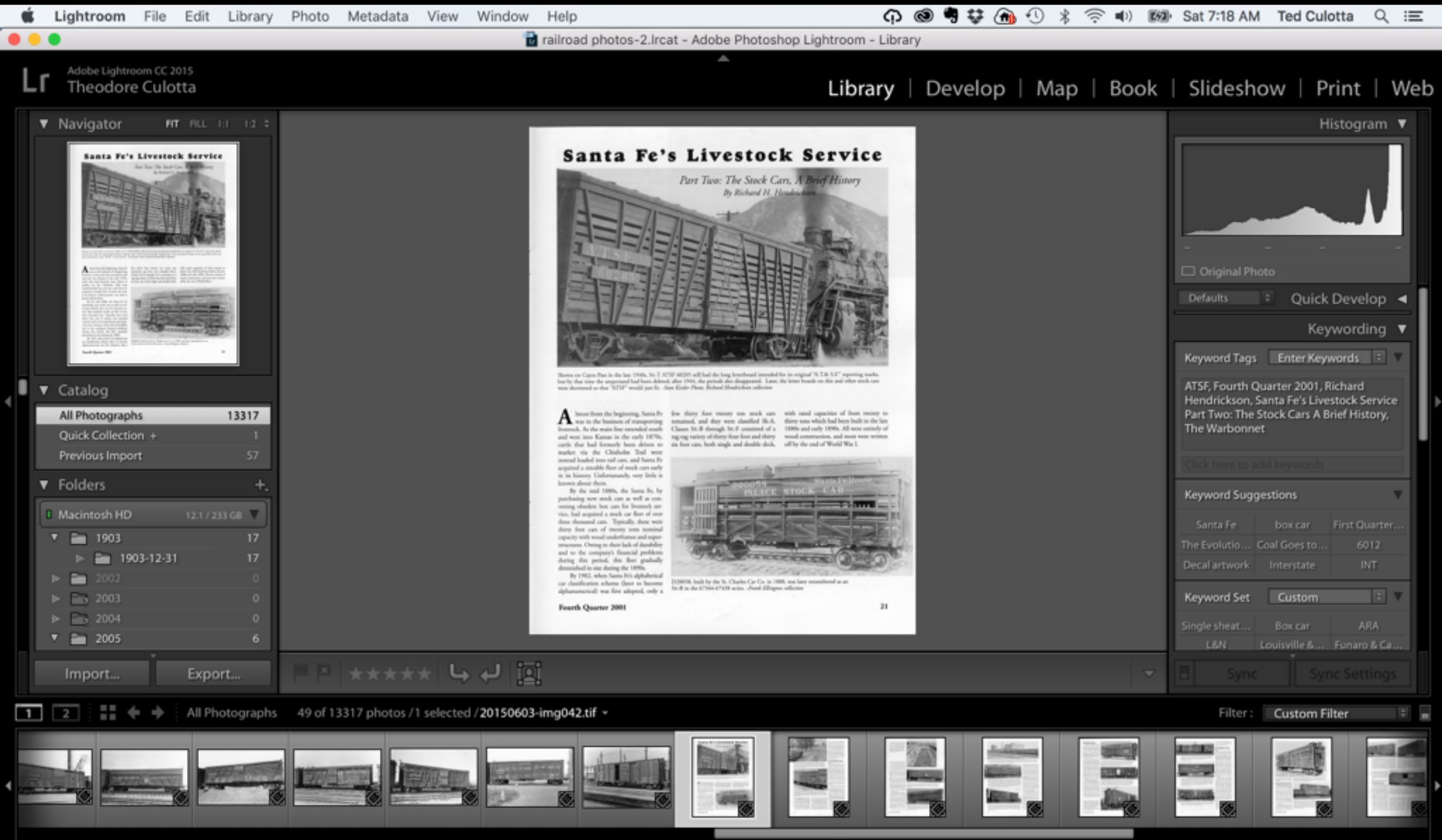
Ever wonder why the prints from your home printer aren't quite what you expected? The printer and computer aren't optimizing the output based upon printer and paper used. Each printer deposits ink differently and each paper absorbs ink differently. Lightroom allows you to manage these combinations so your prints look as good as the printer is capable of producing.

This is achieved by loading ICC profiles for each printer/paper combination and then accessing them as you develop and print images.

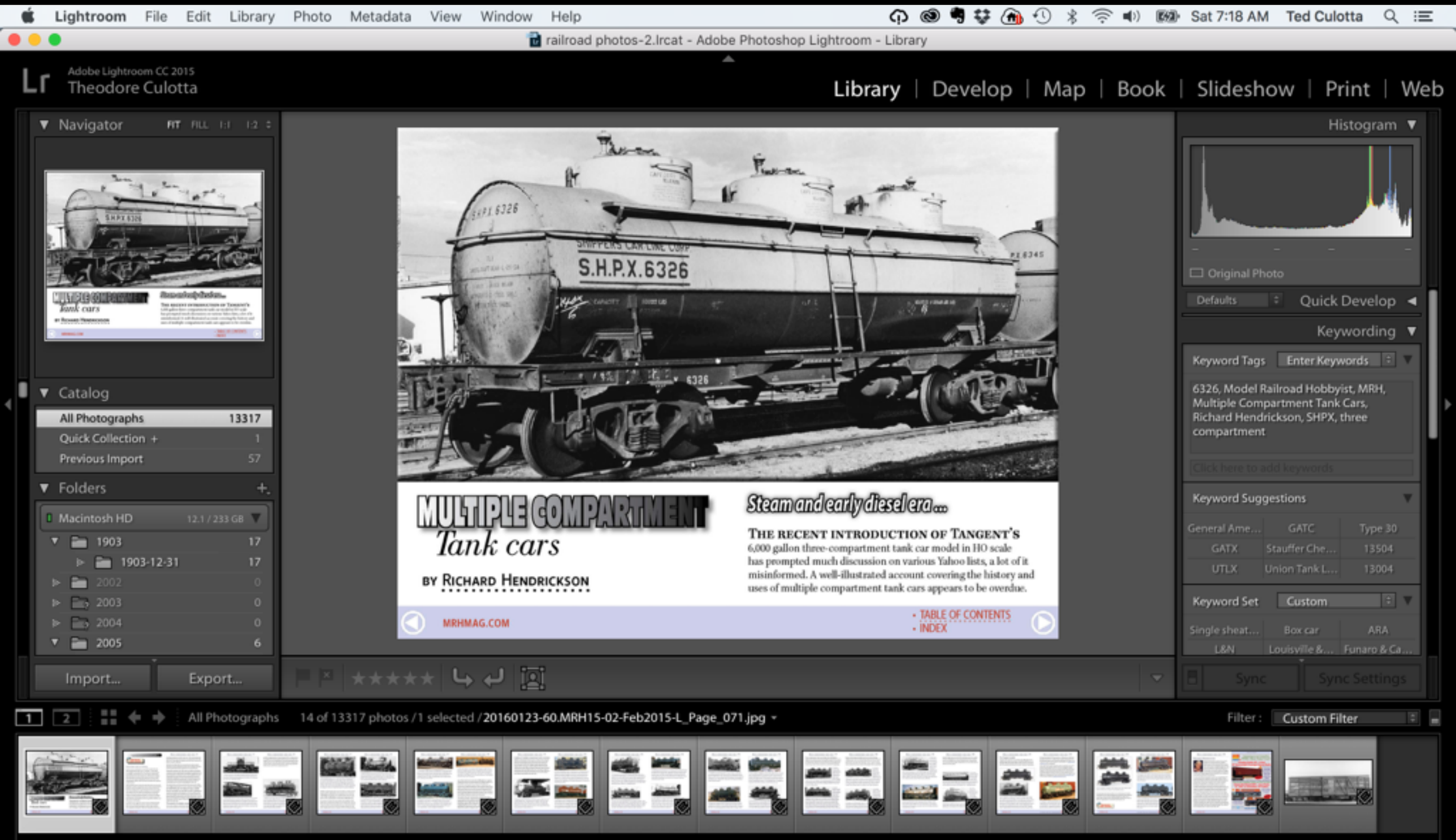
Not just for photos…

- What about those .pdf files you have on your hard drive?
- How do you know what you have and where to find it?
- What about all those magazines you have under the benchwork and everywhere else (how much material is there really worth saving?)

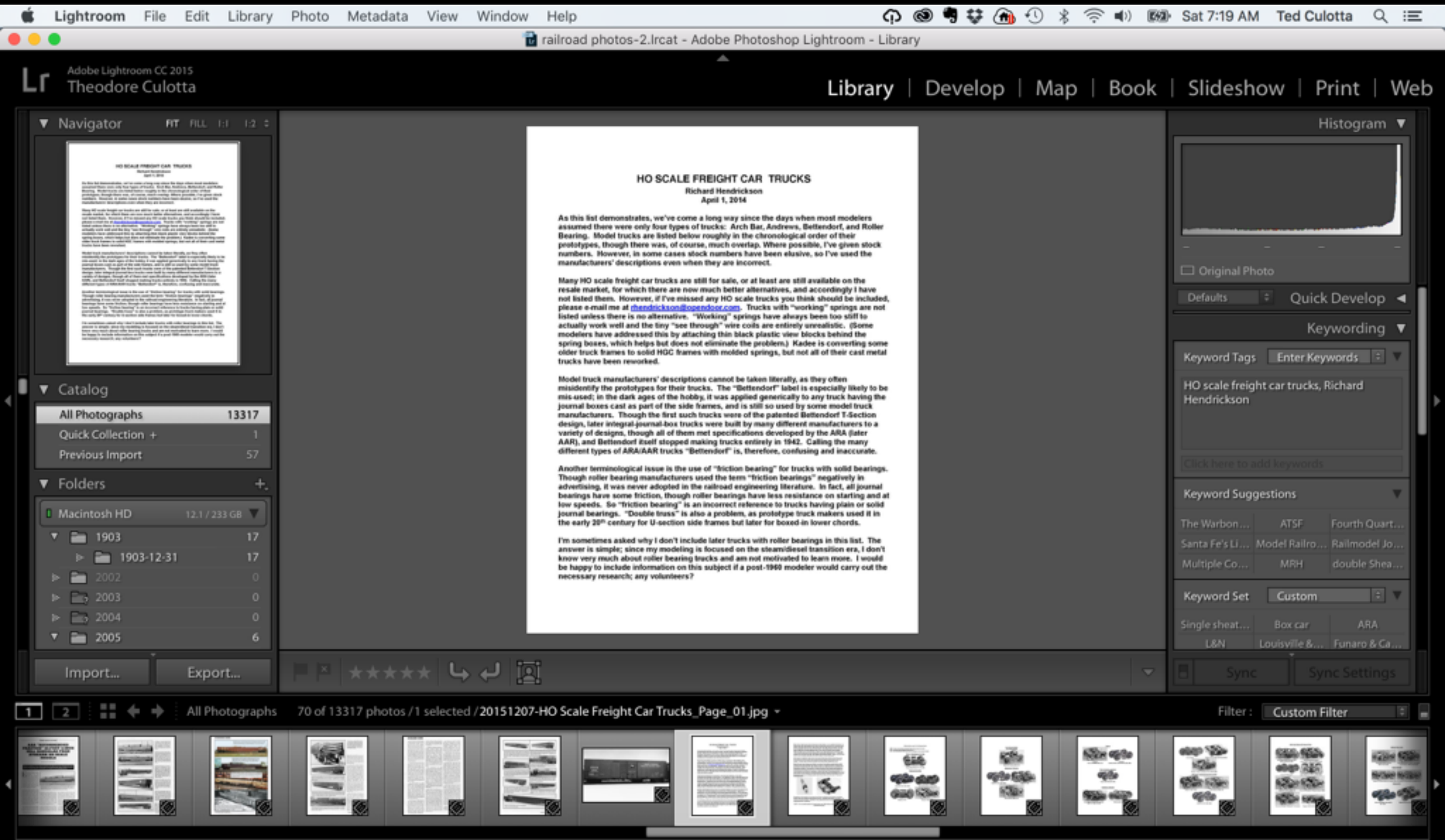
Not just for photos…



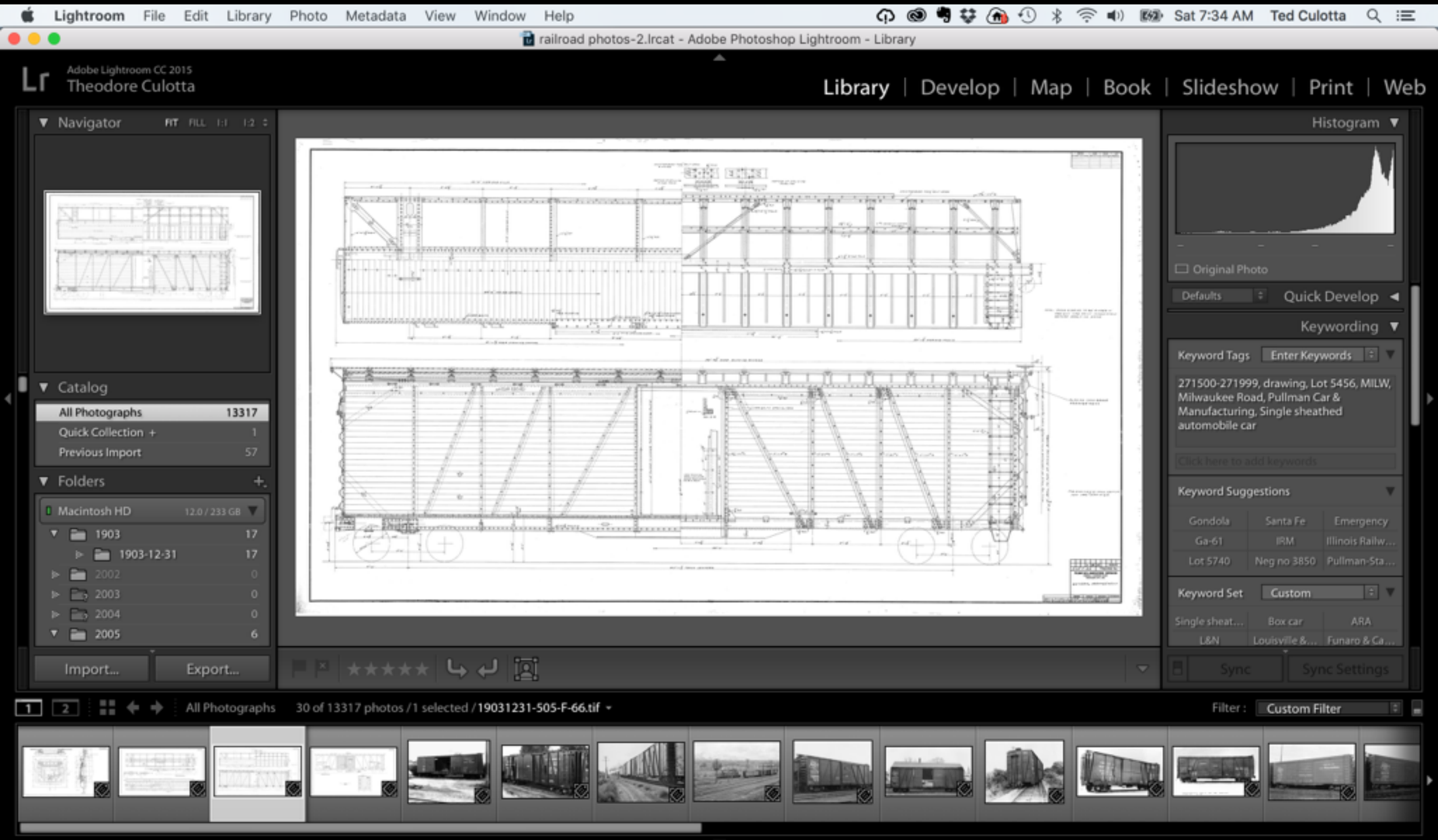
Not just for photos…



Not just for photos…



Not just for photos…



Not just for model railroading stuff…

- How about your other photos shot with your phone or digital camera?
- Receipts?
- Recipes?
- You can create multiple catalogs

Please note that if you are viewing this file separate from the live presentation at the St. Louis RPM, there was a companion “ridealong” demonstration showing Lightroom’s capabilities directly from Lightroom that is absent from this file. Without that, some material presented herein may not be entirely clear or may seem too simplistic. Please consider attending a future RPM to see the “Full Monty”.