

### How does the Synchronize Folder command work?

If you right-click on a folder and choose Synchronize Folder... from the context-sensitive menu, it gives you a few different options, but be careful as they can cause trouble! It's main purpose is to update Lightroom's catalog with changes made to that folder by other programs, for example, adding or deleting photos or updating the metadata.



First, it searches the folder and subfolders for any new photos not currently in this catalog and asks you if you want to import them. If you've dropped photos into the folder using other software, it saves you navigating to the folder in the Import dialog.

Synchronize Folder also checks for photos that have been moved, renamed or deleted from that folder and gives you the option to remove those missing photos from the catalog. Be very careful using that option because any metadata for those photos, such as Develop settings and ratings would be lost, even if the photos have simply been moved to another location. When in doubt, leave that option unchecked, as we'll cover relinking missing photos later in the chapter. Synchronize doesn't do intelligent relinking at this point in time.

Scan for metadata updates checks the metadata in the catalog against the file, to see whether you've edited the file in any other programs, such as Bridge. If it's changed in another program, but not in Lightroom, Lightroom's catalog will be overwritten by the external metadata. If both



Also check...

*“Lightroom thinks my photos are missing—how do I fix it?” on page 200 and “XMP” section on page 114*

Lightroom’s catalog and the external file have changed, you’ll get a Metadata Conflict badge, and you’ll have to click on that icon to be able to choose which set of data to keep—the metadata in your catalog or the metadata in the file. We’ll come back to that XMP header section in more detail in the next chapter, including the use of that Metadata Conflict dialog.

The ‘Show Missing Photos’ button searches for photos missing from that folder and creates a temporary collection in the Catalogs panel. You can then decide whether to track them down and relink them, or whether to remove those photos from the catalog. If you want to check your entire catalog for missing photos, it’s quicker to use the Library menu > Find Missing Photos command instead. Once you’ve finished with that temporary collection, you can right-click on it to remove it.