



Also check...

"I have a long list of folders—can I change it to show the folder hierarchy?" on page 149

How do I move only my photos to another hard drive, leaving the catalog where it is?

If you need to move photos to another hard drive, perhaps because you've outgrown your existing hard drive, there are a number of options, but these are the easiest:

Option One—move in Explorer/Finder and update Lightroom's links

1. First follow the instructions in the Library chapter to show the folder hierarchy. That will make it easy to relink the files that will be marked as missing in the process.
2. Close Lightroom and use Explorer (Windows) / Finder (Mac) or file synchronization software to copy the files to the new drive.
3. Check the files have arrived safely, and then rename the original folder using Explorer (Windows) / Finder (Mac) temporarily, while you confirm that you've reconnected everything correctly.
4. Open Lightroom and right-click on the parent folder.
5. Select Find Missing Folder... or Update Folder Location... from the list, depending on which option is available.
6. Repeat the process for any other parent folders until all of the photos are shown as online, without question marks.
7. Once you've confirmed that everything has transferred correctly, you can safely detach the old hard drive or delete the files from their previous location using Explorer (Windows) / Finder (Mac).

Option Two—move the photos using Lightroom's Folders panel

1. Go to Library menu > New Folder...
2. Navigate to the new drive and create a new folder or select an existing folder where you plan to place the photos.
3. Drag the folders and/or photos onto that new location.



Also check...

"Lightroom thinks my photos are missing—how do I fix it?" on page 200

4. Check that the entire folder contents have copied correctly before deleting the originals, particularly if you're dragging and dropping the photos themselves, rather than the folders. Remember that Lightroom might not move/copy files that aren't currently in the catalog, such as text files, as Lightroom won't know that they exist.

Personally I prefer to use the first option when moving between hard drives, because file synchronization software, that we mentioned earlier in the backup section, allows me to verify that all of my files have moved correctly, byte-for-byte. File synchronization software will allow you to do a one-off copy, as well as proper drive synchronization.