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Bonus Handout at www.thefamilycurator.com/smartphone

smartphone-ography

noun. Photography using a smartphone camera

also: smartphoneography, iPhoneography, smartphone-ography

smartphoneographer

noun. Someone who takes photographs with a smartphone.

— *wordspycom*

THE BEST CAMERA IS “THE ONE YOU HAVE WITH YOU”

If “the camera you have with you” is usually your smartphone, it’s worth learning how to achieve the best results possible with your mobile device. New apps and accessories can give your photos an edge over traditional digital camera images and help you create better scans, snapshots, and selfies to share with family and friends. Cloud backup services can safe-guard your images if you’re away from your home computer.

WORKFLOWS THAT WORK

Efficient smartphoneographers develop a personal workflow that includes every step from snapping to sharing images. But, while each essential task is part of the workflow, the overall scheme will vary depending on —

Subject matter
Location
Lighting

Physical space
Access
Image Restrictions

Smartphone-ography Workflow Essentials

ESSENTIAL GEAR

Every photographer needs some basic gear. Start with a sturdy tripod and remote shutter release. Add lights, backup storage, power cables and backup battery as needed. Visit www.thefamilycurator.com/smartphone for recent product reviews.

1. CAPTURE

Get to know your smartphone. Whatever your make or model, locate the user's guide or online help section and READ the photo sections. After you know how the device works, you will be a better judge of the features offered by many Android and Apple apps. Learn the basics and how to achieve best results with your equipment.

- How the shutter works
- Focus and exposure
- Camera roll
- Grid or other shooting assist features

Smartphone Apps (or applications) are the mobile photographer's best friend. Look for free versions whenever possible to take the app for a test drive before purchasing. Also read reviews and check for recent updates to find programs maintained by the developer.

5 helpful camera app features

1. Composition Grids
2. Filters
3. Additional focus fields
4. More exposure options
5. One tap sharing

Popular Camera Apps

Camera Plus (iOS)
 Camera360 Ultimate (A)
 Google Camera (A)
 ProCamera8 (iOS)
 Pure Shot (iOS)
 VSCO (A)
 VSCO Shot (iOS)

5 reasons to use a scanning app

1. Capture only the paper
2. De-skewing
3. Lighting
4. File naming
5. File format options

Popular Scanning Apps

CamScanner (A, iOS)
 DocScan (iOS)
 GeniusScan (A, iOS, Win)
 Handy Scanner (A)
 Prizmo (iOS)
 ScannerPro (iOS)
 TurboScan (A, iOS)

**5MP Resolution + Steady Camera +
 Good Light = BETTER PHOTOS**

2. EDIT & ENHANCE

Smartphone in-camera apps allow instant editing and photo selection. Apply filters for painterly or grunge effects, texture, or color-erase. Scans can be improved by adjusting contrast, cropping, and renaming. Test the non-destructive features of your apps to see if you can easily Revert to Original or work on duplicate images if you need to retain the original.

5 fun photo editor features

1. Filters
2. Borders, stickers
3. Adding words
4. Replacing parts of the image
5. Making collages

Popular editing apps

Instagram (A, iOS, Win)
 Snapseed (A, iOS)
 Moldiv (A, iOS)
 Photogene (iOS)
 PicsArt (A, iOS)
 Autodesk Pixlr Mobile (A, iOS)

3. BACKUP AND ARCHIVE

The digital photographer's job doesn't stop with snapping a great photo. The most important step in any photographer's workflow is to backup and archive your images. In most instances, this will mean importing images to a computer or external hard drive for further editing and tagging, backing up to another form of storage media, and then archiving files for safe-keeping. Remember the Backup 3 - 2 -1 rule.

Backup 3-2-1

3 copies
 2 different media
 1 copy offsite

Popular backup solutions

Apple iCloud.com
 Apple Time Machine
 Backblaze.com
 Carbonite.com
 Dropbox Photo Sync
 External hard drives
 Google OneDrive
 iDrive.com

Filenaming and folder organization pose problems when working with hundreds of images. Decide on a system and create a cheat sheet to help you be consistent. Your computer will sort files and locate by the Search command, but it's helpful to always use the same order for names, dates, and events.

2015_lewis_birthday or
 lewis_2015_birthday

It doesn't really matter if you prefer to sort by date, surname, or place; but, whatever you choose, be consistent.

4. CREATE

Family historians and genealogists may spend a lot of time in the past, but most of us want to leave a legacy to future generations. Mobile technology makes it fun and easy to share your photo archive with family and friends.

5 mobile family photo projects

1. Design a slideshow to email or display on a big-screen tv
2. Create and order a photo book
3. Create scrapbook pages
4. Order prints
5. Create a talking book

Popular photo project apps

Shutterfly (prints, books, calendars)
 Snapfish (prints, books)
 InstaxShare (printing)
 MosaicApp (photo book)
 Photo Story by Shutterfly
 Project Life Scrapbooking

5 genealogy projects

1. Scan family photos and upload online
2. Interview family members
3. Record heirloom history
4. Pin photos to online maps
5. Scan and label pictures

Popular FREE Genealogy Apps

Ancestry
 BillionGraves
 FamilySearch.org Apps
 FindaGrave
 MyHeritage
 Shoebox from Ancestry

SMARTPHONE-OGRAPHY RESOURCES

Camera Image Sensor www.cameraimagesensor.com

Use this site to discover the actual size of the image sensor in your make and model of smartphone. Compare the results with your digital point-and-shoot.

Flickr.com

Search Groups for *Smartphone Photographer* or *iPhoneography* for examples and inspiration. Join the group and post your own photos.

Instagram.com

This fun photo-sharing site isn't just for teenagers. Find and follow #smartphoneography for ideas on composition and interesting subjects

Mobiography.net

Articles and tutorials, magazine, photo composition gallery

How to Archive Family Photos: A Step-by-Step Guide to Organize and Share Your Photos Digitally,

by Denise May Levenick (FamilyTree Books, 2015)

Manage Photos Across Multiple Devices
 Create the Best Filing System for You
 25 Easy Keepsake Projects

