

# 5 Minute Guide...

## Web based photo sharing

### What is web based photo sharing?

Remember when you had to have your film developed and made your friends look at album after album of vacation photos? Digital photography not only revolutionized the practice of picture taking, but has also changed the way we share our photos. The email method, where you attach your photos to the email, makes an attachment that sometimes is too large to send. Web based photo sharing gives us a quick and easy way to choose which photos to display and who gets to see them.

### How does web based photo sharing work?

Choose a photo sharing site and upload the pictures you want to share. Flickr®, for example, has an upload tool that makes the process quite simple. Once your photos are uploaded you can apply tags to them that describe the picture, allowing other people to find them. You can also set your privacy limitations. Make sure your settings mirror your preferences, whether you want only friends to be able to view your photos or let them be open to anyone worldwide.

### Who uses web based photo sharing?

Web based photo sharing is open to everyone, and many people and organizations are finding it an easy way to share photos with their friends, family, clients or any interested individual. For example, the Library of Congress, in partnership with Flickr®, has released some of their collection for the world to view. Other organizations have followed suit, resulting in a wealth of photographic material that most would never get the opportunity to see.

### Does web based photo sharing have drawbacks?

As with so many of the social networking services, realize that you can't be guaranteed privacy so don't upload any images you aren't comfortable sharing with everyone. Unless you are willing to pay a fee, there may be space limitations placed on the amount of bandwidth you are allowed. While the fee may not be large, it should be taken into account, especially if you have a lot of pictures you want to share.

### Why is web based photo sharing useful?

Web based photos sharing is useful because you can share your images without having to physically carry the albums! There are many tools you may use to better view the photos, such as the zoom feature, which allows you to enlarge your view of the digital photo and get more details than from an actual photograph. Some of the photo sharing sites allow you to create albums, edit photos or create a slideshow.

### How can libraries use web based photo sharing?

Libraries can use web based photo sharing to post images in their collections or to promote or commemorate events. Remember that there are privacy issues, so make sure you get releases from attendants that ensure they are aware their photo may appear in a public forum.

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## Explore More

How to ensure retrievability through metadata tags

<http://www.allegrotechindexing.com/metadata.pdf>

Comparison of some photo sharing sites

<http://reviews.digitaltrends.com/guide/82/web-based-photo-services-compared>

Library of Congress Flickr© Site

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/library\\_of\\_congress/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/)



## Do More

Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/>

Picasa

<http://picasa.google.com/>

Photobucket

<http://photobucket.com/>