If you have a multi-computer workflow as discussed in Chapter 2, or if you use multiple catalogs, you can share the settings from your Smart Collections with other catalogs. If you Right-Click (PC) or Control-Click (Mac) on a Smart Collection, a menu will appear with Export Smart Collection Settings or Import Smart Collection Settings as an option (see Figure 1.1). As you click to Export, you will direct Lightroom to save a Lightroom Smart Collection file (.lrsmcol). Logically, you can open a second catalog and Right-Click (PC) or Control-Click (Mac) on any Collection and then select Import Smart Collection Settings.
In addition to sharing Smart Collection Settings between catalogs, you can also share Collections along with the images they contain. Thus, if you want to transfer a book project, a slideshow you’ve customized, a print with specific settings, or a web gallery arrangement, you can do that by moving it with its relative collection to another catalog. There will be times you may want to put a book project on your laptop to play with it on the go, or you may want to share a slideshow with a customized look, transitions, and timing with a colleague.

It is important to keep in mind that if you export a Collection as a catalog, then the images will be copied and transferred with the export. Logically, you’ll want to make sure you’re exporting the collection onto a portable hard drive, thumb drive, or by way of another device that will have enough capacity or room. If you are exporting a collection with a lot of images, I’d be wary of using a cloud service, since online bandwidth speeds are typically slow for transferring a lot of data.

To export a Collection, Right-Click (PC) or Control-Click (Mac) on the name of the Collection and then select Export this Collection as a Catalog as shown in Figure 1.2. An Export as Catalog box will appear and you’ll first be asked to name the outgoing catalog and choose its destination. There will also some check boxes at the bottom for you to check or uncheck whether you want to Export negative files, Build/Include Smart Preview, or Include available previews. Lightroom’s default settings are to leave everything checked except for building or including smart previews.

Once you’ve successfully exported a Collection, the stage is set to import that Collection into another catalog. Whether your target catalog is on the same computer or on a different one, make sure the target catalog is first open. If you’re using a hard drive to
To export a Collection, Right-Click (PC) or Control-Click (Mac) on the name of the Collection and then select Export this Collection as a Catalog.

transfer the data, then naturally make sure that's plugged in. Then go to the File menu and then click on Import from Another Catalog and proceed with an Import from Catalog process in the same manner as explained in Chapter 2, and in the section Moving Photos Between Catalogs on page 64.