

# Tips for making your own book

By David Bly

## Get organized

Gather your photos together and sort them into categories, such as by date, by person or by subject. Draw up a simple outline for your book so you will know in what order your material will appear.

## Digitize photos

You can copy photos (if they are not already digital) in a variety of ways (iPhone, camera, iPad, etc.), but a scanner gives you the best results. Make sure the photos are high-resolution — at least 200 dpi, preferably 300 dpi.

Give photos consecutive file names to help keep them in the order you want them to appear in the book.

## Prepare written material

Written material such as family histories and biographies should be available as text. You can type smaller amounts of text directly into the book you are creating, but it's much easier to work written material in word-processing programs such as MS Word. Scan important documents such as birth certificates as images if you want them to appear in your book.

## Find the instructions

The details of making your book depend on the service you choose, but the basic principles are the same for all — you place photos and text in boxes on a page. All services provide a variety of designs and templates; most allow you to adjust those templates if you so choose.

You can add, remove or re-arrange pages at any time. Page numbering is usually automatic.

## Check it twice

Proofread your book several times before you send it off. Printing out the pages is the best way to proofread. Let at least one other person proof your book.

Any place that handles photos will offer book services. Here are some online services:

Blurb.ca

iBooks Author

Snapfish.com

Shutterfly.com

lulu.com

scrapbookmymemories.com

mixbook.com

More good tips: [www.wikihow.com/Make-Your-First-Photobook](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Your-First-Photobook)