

SEO Basics: Steps to Optimize Your Photography Website

Presented by Kara Eccleston



Kara Eccleston

SEO Manager @ ShootProof

About Me

Hi! I'm Kara. I'm bad at photography but good at SEO! I've been doing SEO and content strategy for 9 years and have worked agency-side for brands like Hotels.com, Carter's, ASOS, and Lilly Pulitzer.







What is SEO?

And why is it important?

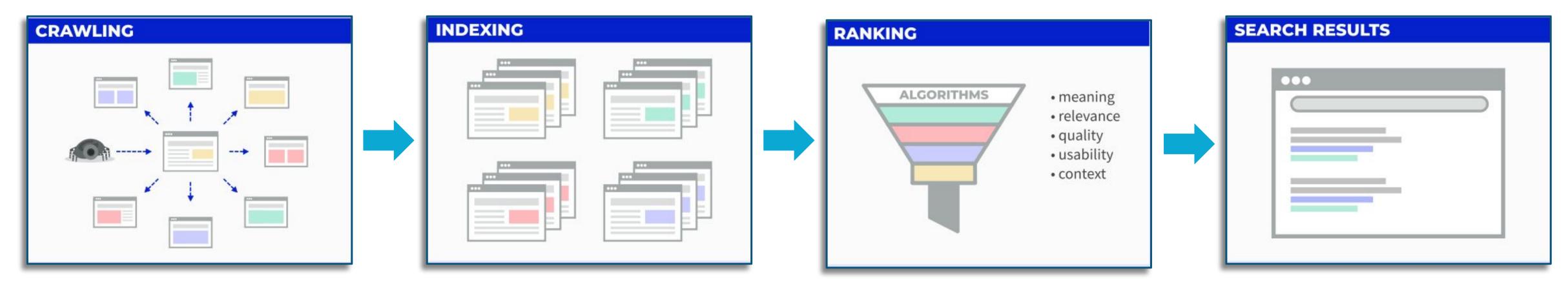


What is SEO?

Search Engine Optimization is the process of improving your site to increase its visibility when people search for products or services related to your business in Google, Bing, and other search engines.

How Does a Search Engine Work?

Search engines can differ from one to another in their ways of providing the answers to the user but all of them are built on the 3 fundamental principles: **1. Crawling**, **2. Indexing**, and **3. Ranking**



1. Crawling - Web crawlers (or bots) follow links on existing web pages to discover new pages on the internet.

2. Indexing – Once crawled, search engines make a copy of the page and store it in a database called an "index". For a page to show in the search results, it must be indexed.

3. Ranking - Search engines use algorithms to pick the best results for a query and creates a list of pages that will appear on the result page.

To give the searcher the best results, Google uses more than 200 ranking signals to evaluate the relevance, quality, and usability of a page.

Why is SEO Important?

- While paid advertising, social media, and other online platforms can generate traffic to websites, the majority of online traffic is driven by search engines.
- Organic search results cover more digital real estate and people are more likely to click on organic results than on a paid advertisement.
- SEO is one of the only online marketing channels that, when set up correctly, can continue to pay dividends over time.
- SEO can help you attract anyone with intent at a given point in time, no matter what stage of the buying funnel they are in.



What about Paid Search (PPC)?

PPC (pay per click) is a great way to attract customers fast whereas SEO efforts takes some time to pay off. However, the downside to PPC is that it can be expensive, especially for new businesses starting out.

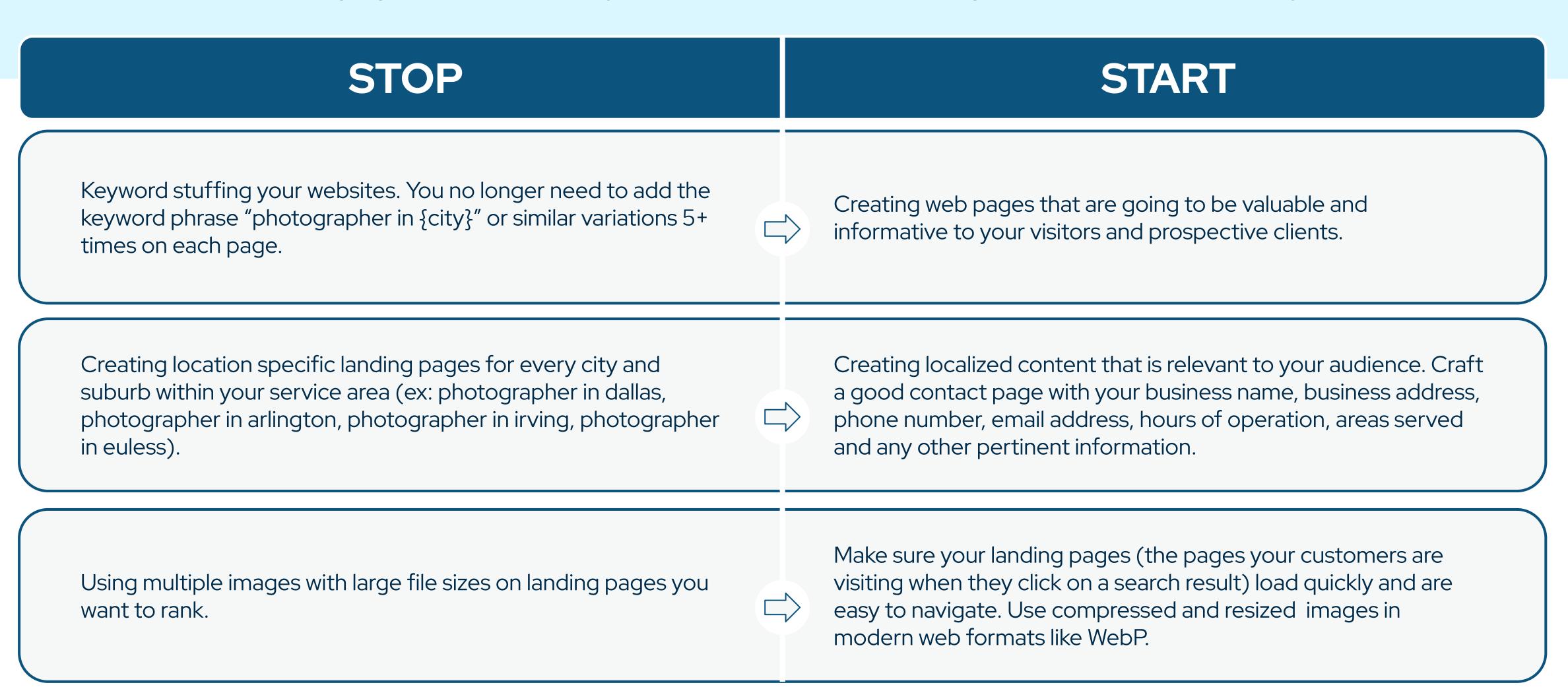
Keyword ↑	Clicks	Impressions	Cost	CTR	Avg. CPC
photographer near me	2,040.04	27,586.77	\$13,544.19	7.4%	\$6.64
photographers in atlanta	48.45	625.89	\$340.63	7.7%	\$7.03
wedding photographer atlanta	24.17	301.24	\$150.68	8.0%	\$6.23

5 Steps to SEO Success

01	Research keywords around each of the services or shoot types you offer.
02	Build unique landing pages for each of your unique services or photo shoot types.
03	Create blog posts that are topically related to each of your service offerings and include links back to that service landing page.
04	Build trust and authority around your brand with offsite SEO.
05	Monitor your performance and then test and refine as needed.

STOP - START

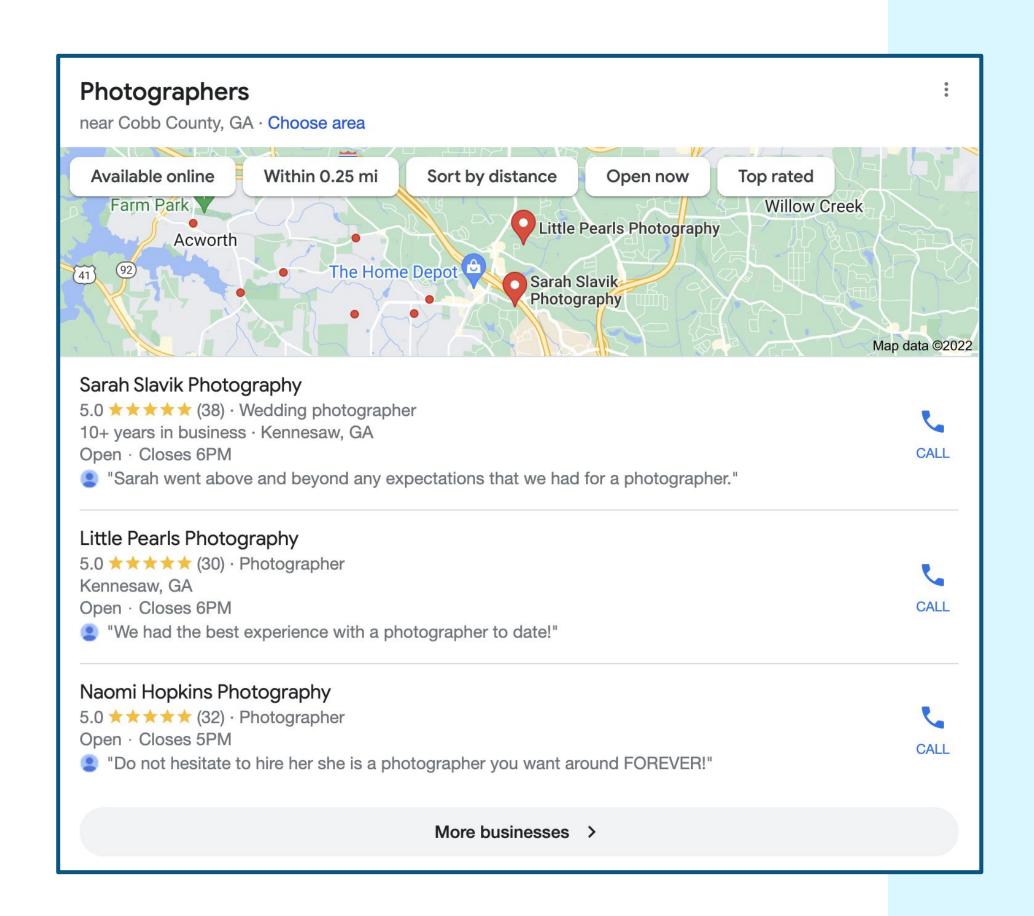
SEO has come a long way. Tactics that worked 5-10 years ago no longer work today. Avoid hacks and tricks and instead focus on creating a great experience for your website visitors. Content organization and structure is key.





Local SEO & Google my Business

Local SEO is KEY for Photographers



What is Local SEO?

Any business that has a physical location or serves a geographic area can benefit from local SEO. If you search Google for any important keywords related to your business and a map with 3 listings appears underneath it (also known as a map pack), then local SEO can help you grow your business.

Google Business Profile

If you haven't already, set up and claim your Google Business Profile (formerly known as Google My Business).

1. Claim

Claim your business and get it verified.

3. Manage

Share updates, respond to reviews, and connect with customers on Google.

2. Personalize

Add hours, photos, and other details about your business.

4. Optimize

Optimize your website to include information that is present on your Business Profile.

Fill Out EVERYTHING (or as much as you can)

Info

- Business Name
- Address
- Business Category (primary and secondary)
- Service Areas
- Hours
- Phone Number
- Website
- Profile Shortname
- Appointment Link
- Business Attributes (accessibility, health & safety)
- Business Description

Photos

- Business Logo
- Cover Photo
- ✓ Video
- Interior (if you have a studio)

Products

- Print Products
- Photo Packages
- Sessions
- ※ You can even group these based on product categories

Services

- Portrait Photography
- Wedding Photography
- Engagement Photos
- Commercial Photography
- Senior Photos
- Family Pictures
- Headshots
- Drone Photography

Build Local Citations

- A local citation is any online mention of partial or complete name, address, and phone number of a local business - also called NAP data.
- Citations can occur on local business directories, on websites and apps, and on social platforms.
- Citations help people to discover local businesses and can also impact local search engine rankings.

Examples:

- Yelp
- Facebook
- YP
- Superpages
- Instagram
- Nextdoor
- The Knot





Note: Make sure your business information is consistent across each citation/profile.

Acquire Google Reviews (But Don't be Shady)

Strong reviews can help your business rank and stand out. Here are some review acquisition strategies you can try:

- Offer great customer service
- Follow up emails asking clients about their experience with your service and if they would be willing to leave a review
- In-studio signage or marketing materials (brochures, business cards, etc) requesting feedback
- Messaging on your website that asks clients to leave a review
- Asking your clients directly
- X Do not buy fake reviews or use a kiosk type system to acquire reviews

Note: It's also important to respond to both negative and positive reviews. When responding to a negative review, ask the client what you can do to fix the situation and ask if they are willing to update their review once rectified.



Lura Roach

7 reviews · 2 photos



Hannah photographed our wedding on 9/21/2018 and was absolutely wonderful to work with! Her sweet and cheerful personality along with her breathtaking work sealed the deal for us to choose her as our photographer. Hannah really was conscious of all of our requests and appreciate her getting to know us beyond the client aspect. We truly enjoyed her Skyping with us to meet properly before the wedding as we weren't local. She asked questions that helped her get to know us but also aided in knowing what we wanted out of our wedding photography. Overall we would definitely recommend Hannah and hope to use her services again next time we're in GA!







Response from the owner 3 years ago

Hi Lura, I am so appreciative of your kind words and am so glad that you loved your wedding experience and photographs. Thank you so much for taking the time to write such a sweet review. It is brides like you who make being a wedding photographer so precious and one of the most rewarding professions in the world. I am so excited for you and your husband as you embark on new adventures together. Thank you for trusting me to photograph your big day and for allowing my team and I to celebrate with you and your loved ones! Warmly, Hannah

More Google reviews

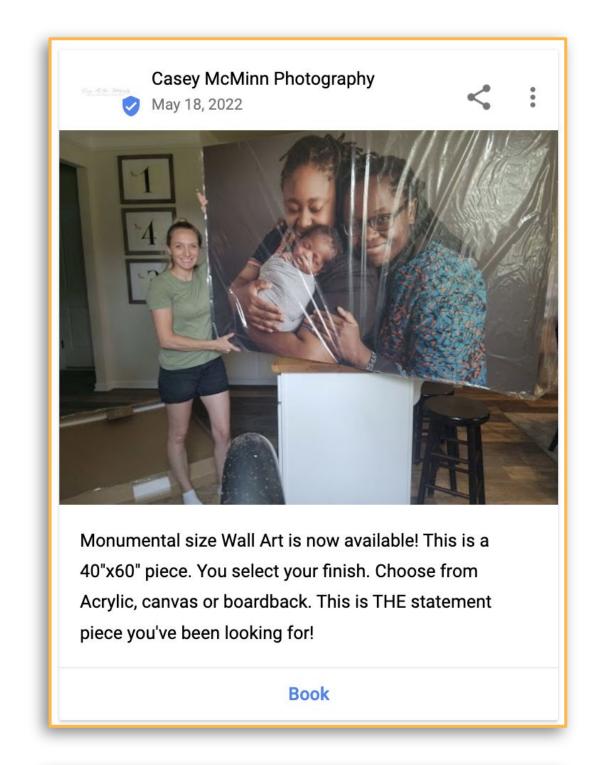
Utilize Google Posts

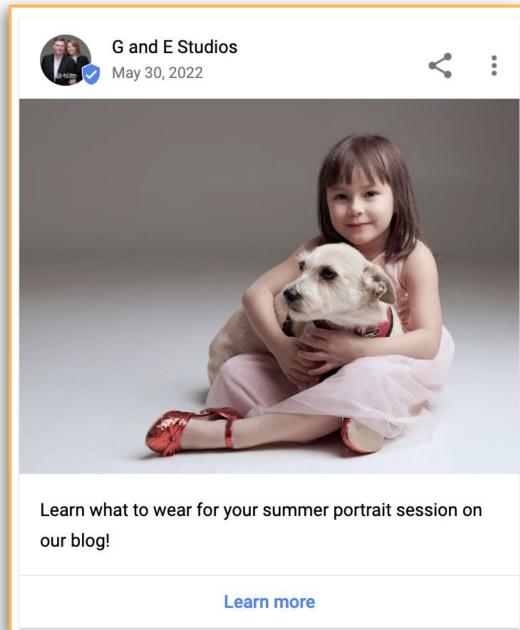
A Google Post is a business announcement, offer, event, or product update that appears on your Posts and Overview tabs and Google Business Profile. This feature is free to use and supports 300 words, photos, gifs, and videos.

You can use Google Posts to promote:

- Products and services
- Sales and offers
- Business updates
- Blog posts and guides
- Upcoming events





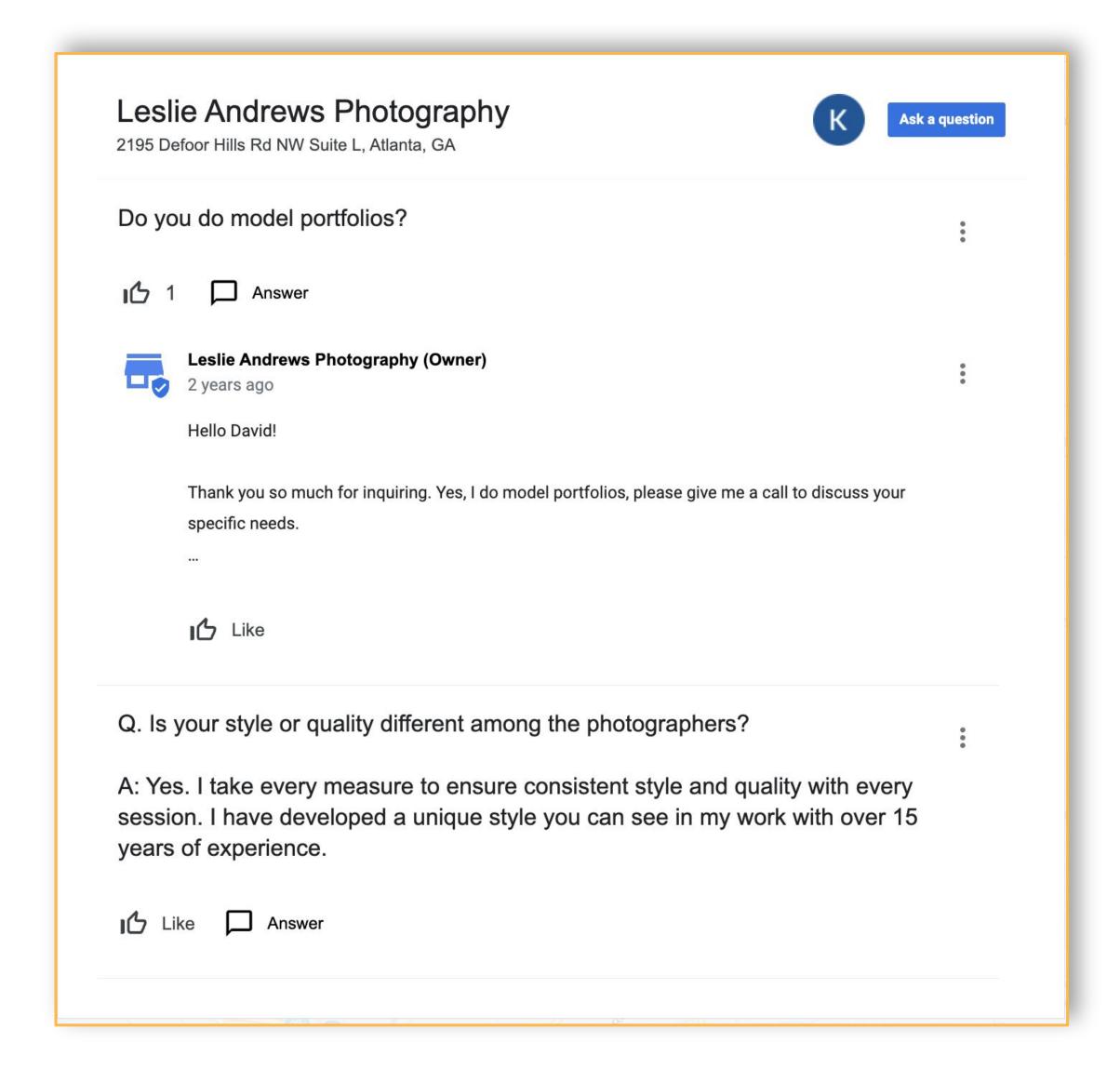


Use Google Q&A to Answer Common FAQs

Google Q&A is a simple tool that allows Google users to ask and answer questions about a business online. Both consumers and the business owner can ask questions AND answer questions.

Examples:

- What types of photography services do you offer?
- What is your typical turnaround time?
- Do you shoot in studio or on location?
- Can you shoot at night or on the weekend?
- How long do photo sessions last?
- Do you travel?





Keyword Research & Targeting

How to Find Keyword Opportunities

Researching Keywords

Head Terms: Your head terms are going to be the primary keywords you want to target and usually have the broadest reach because they are searched for most often. However, these keywords are usually very competitive and have lower conversion rates.

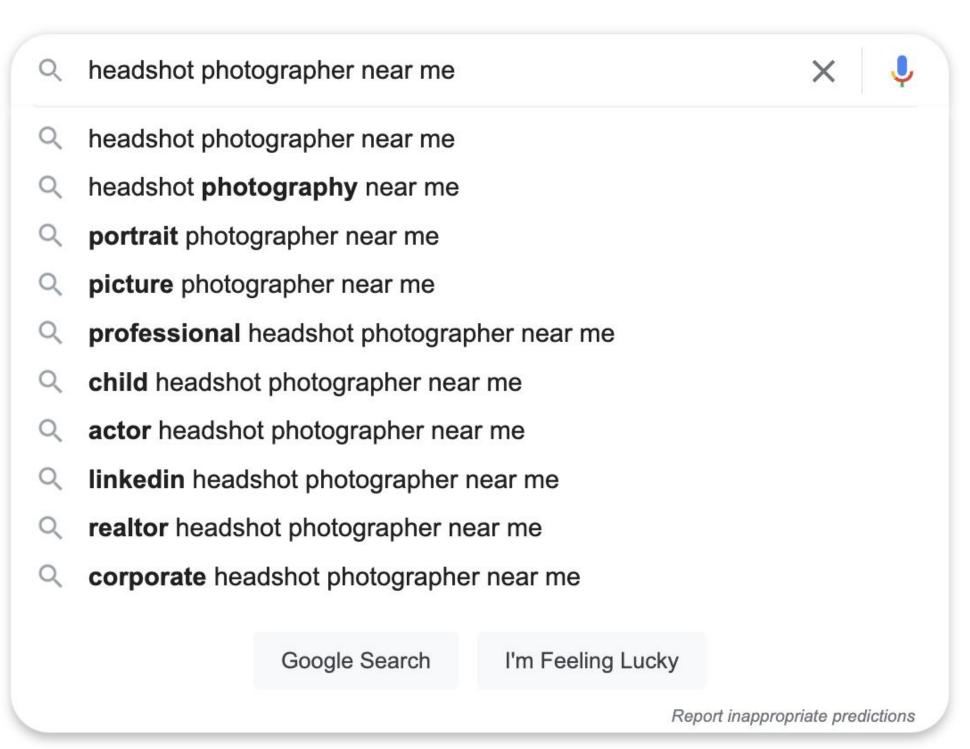
Related Terms: These terms are similar or related to your head terms and often include your head term plus a modifier. These types of keywords are searched less often but typically convert better and are less competitive. However, in aggregate, these types of keywords on average makeup 70% of SEO traffic to a website.

Head Terms (Primary)	headshot photography	headshot photographer
Related Terms (Secondary)	headshot photography for actors	corporate headshot photography
	same day headshots	modeling headshots
	group headshots	professional headshots
	linkedin headshots	realtor headshots

Finding Keywords - Where to Look

- 1. Competitors
- 2. Google Search Results Page
 - a. Auto-Suggestions in Search Bar
 - b. Related Searches
 - c. People Also Ask
 - 3. Google Search Console
 - 4. Google Keyword Planner
 - 5. Google Trends
 - 6. Answer the Public
 - 7. Keywords Everywhere
 - 8. Audience Research (ask your clients!)







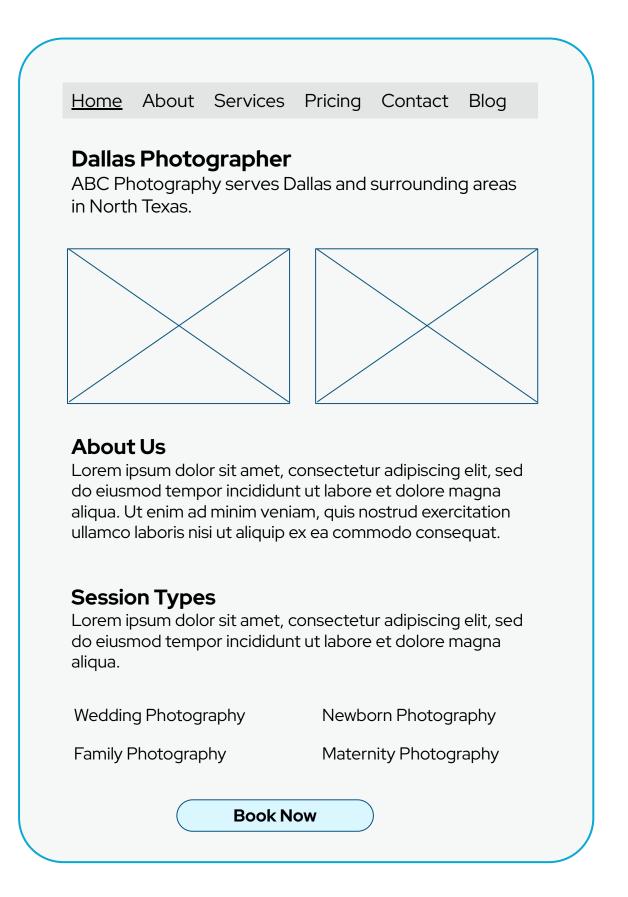
Website Structure

Having an organized website structure is incredibly essential for SEO and is just as important as choosing the right keywords. Without creating something that makes logical sense, Google will have trouble understanding the context of your site.

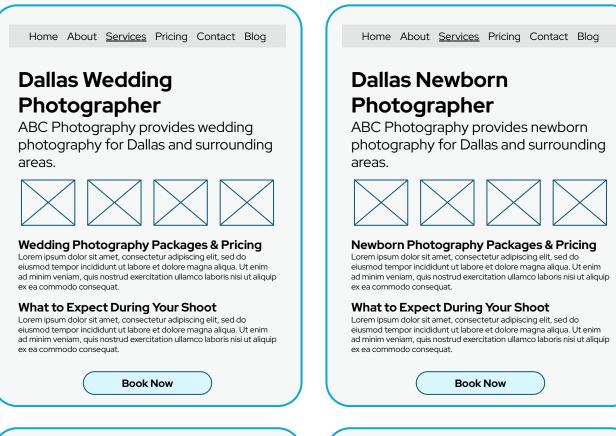
Note: Your target keywords should inform your website structure. Use a hub and spoke framework to organize content based on topics/themes.

General Photographer

Home Page



Service Pages







Blog Posts

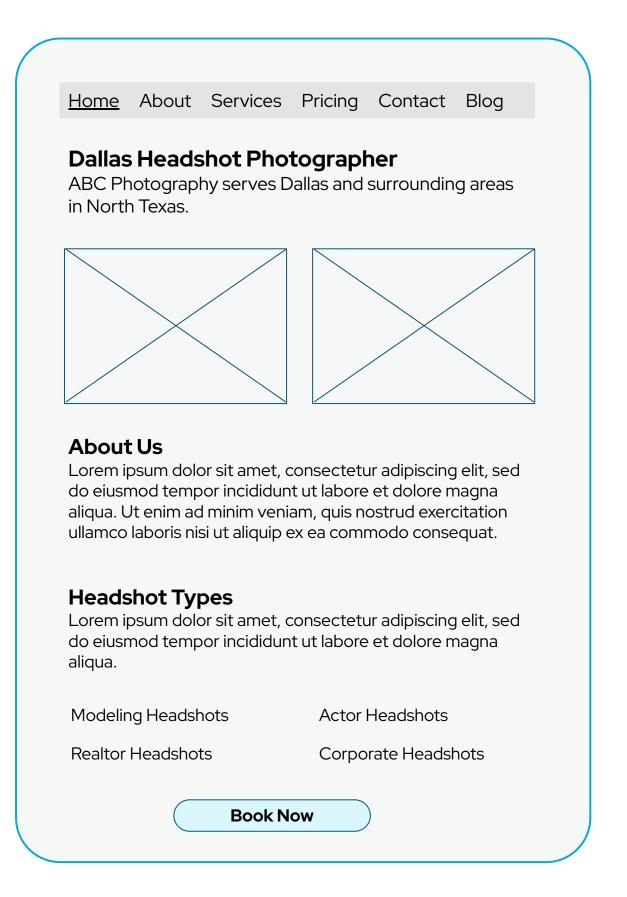
- How do you pose for a wedding photos
- Candid vs Traditional wedding photography
- Wedding anniversary photo shoot ideas
- Best wedding venues in {City}
- Newborn photoshoot ideas
- What age is best to photograph a newborn?
- What to wear to your newborn photo session?

- Family photoshoot ideas
- Best places in {city} for family photos
- Family outfit ideas
- Which month is best for a maternity photoshoot?
- What week should I do maternity photos?
- What should my husband wear for maternity pictures?

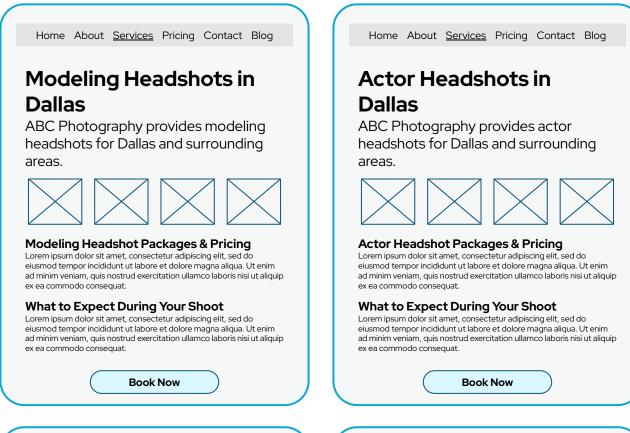
Optimize for "{Genre} Photographer in {City}"

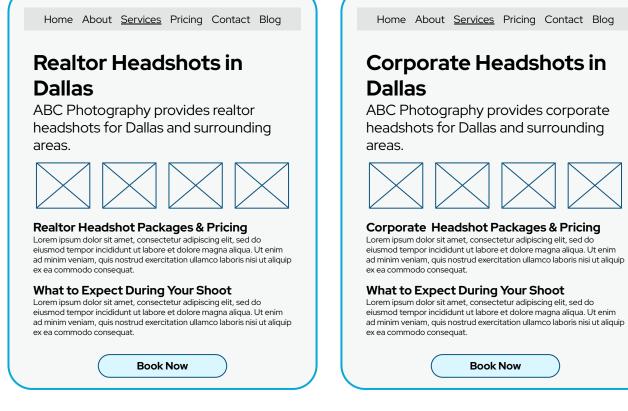
Genre Photographer

Home Page



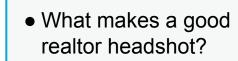
Service Pages



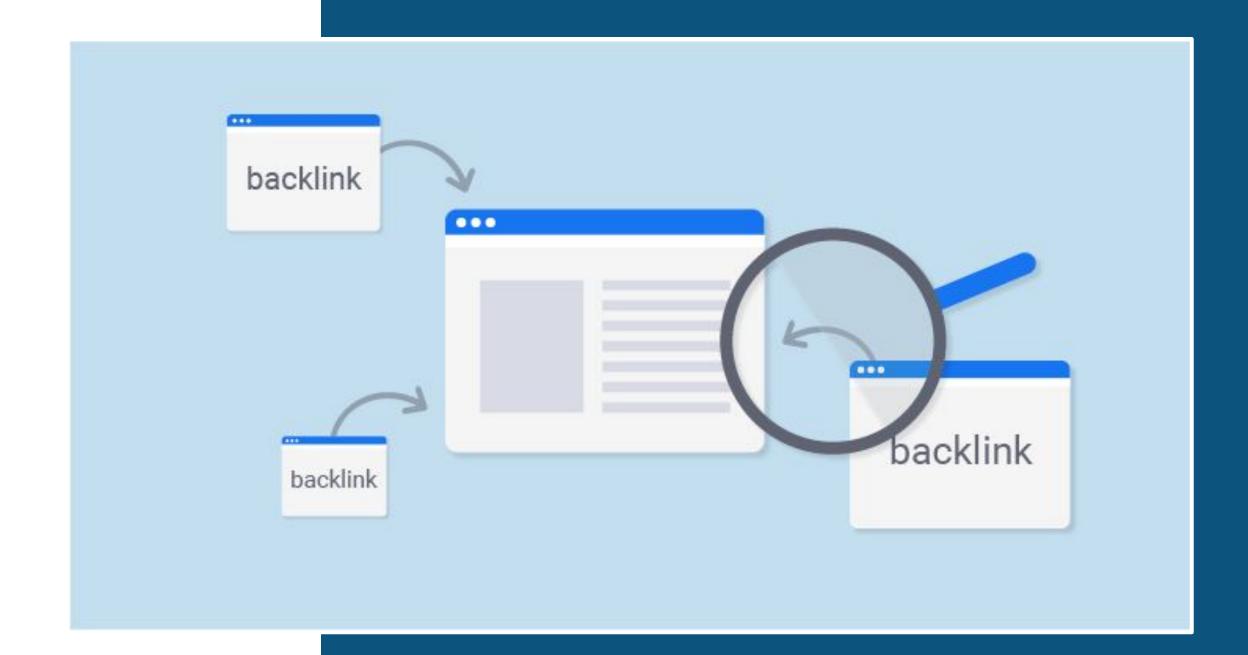


Blog Posts

- What should a female wear to a modeling headshot?
- Should you hire a makeup artist for you modeling headshots?
- How to pose for modeling headshots
- How many headshots should an actor have?
- Should you smile in your acting headshot?
- Should I wear glasses in your acting headshot?



- Realtor headshot outfits
- What is the best color to wear for professional headshots?
- What to wear for corporate headshots
- Makeup for corporate headshots
- Fun corporate headshot examples



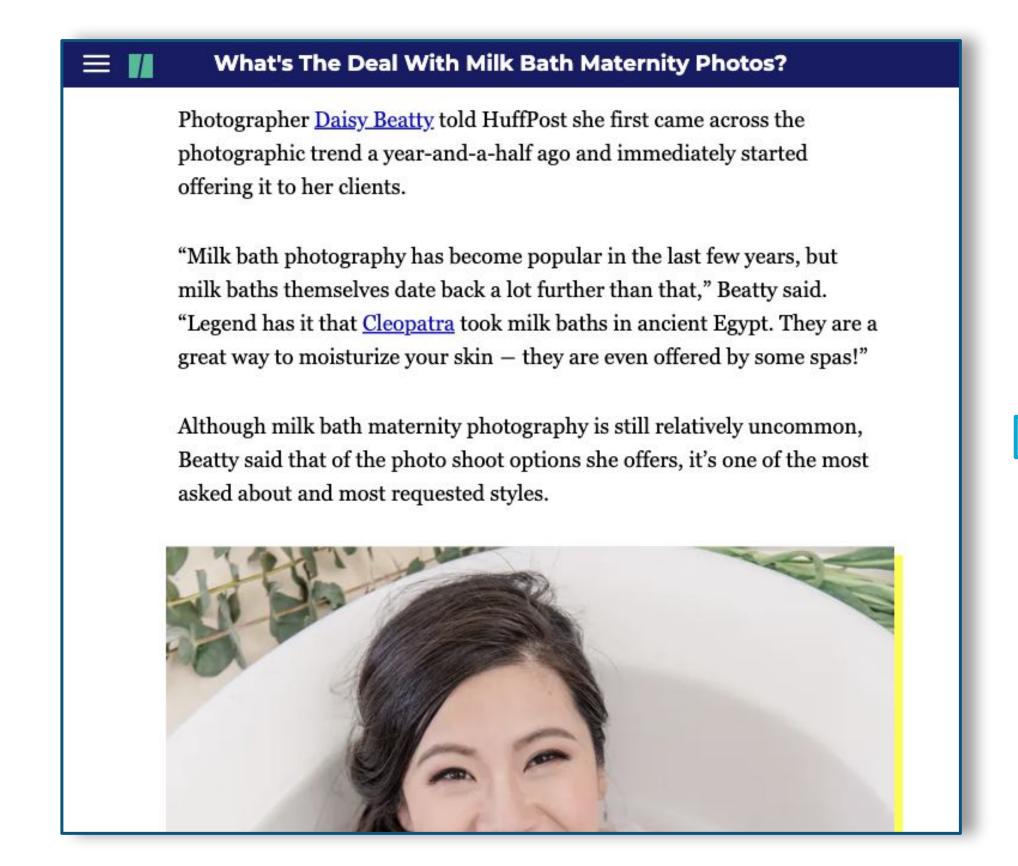
Backlinks

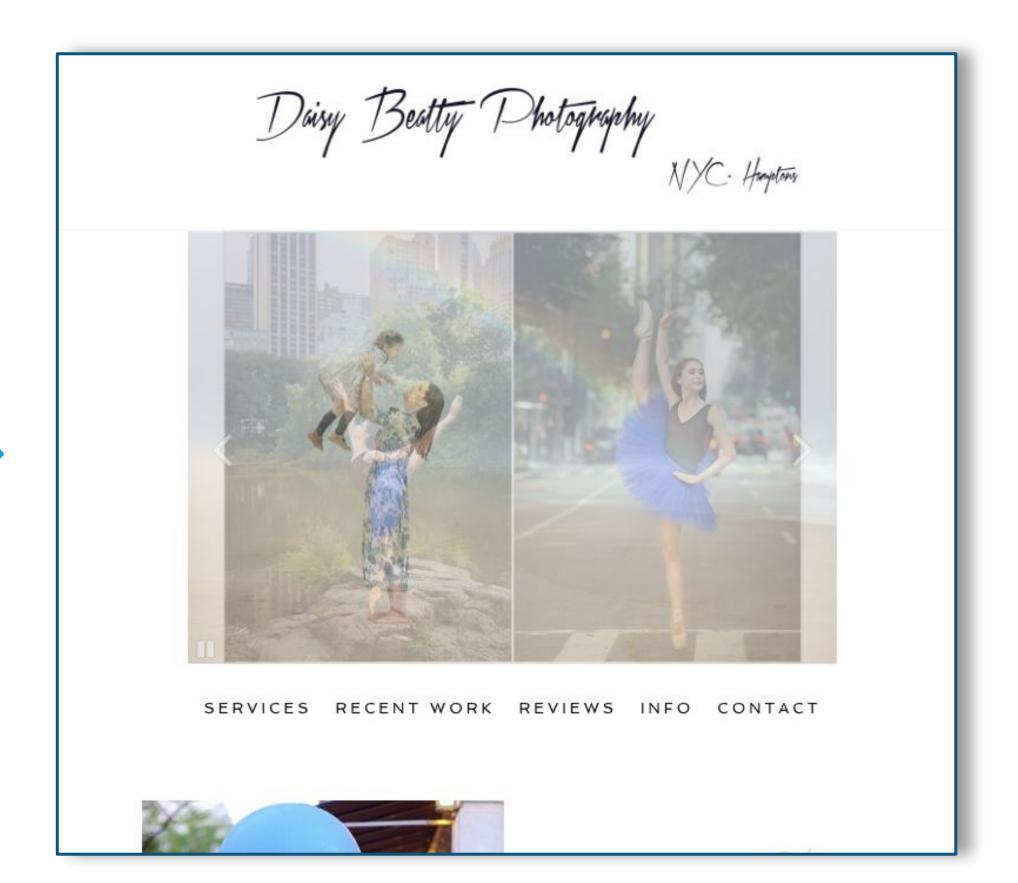
Now that you've identified your keywords and optimized your pages, you want to signal to Google and other search engines that your content is valuable, credible and useful by acquiring backlinks.

Note: Do not buy backlinks from "Link Builders". These are spammy links and could potentially harm your website. Not to mention they are a waste of money.

What is a Backlink?

Backlinks are links from one website to a page on another website. Search engines consider backlinks "votes" for a specific page. Pages with a high number of quality backlinks tend to have high organic search engine rankings.





Backlink Building Strategies 0 0 0 0

Sponsorships

- Look for local events happening in or around your area and see if they offer sponsorship opportunities that will link to your website.
- Find community organizations or local groups/clubs that are looking for sponsors.



Home

Sponsors

Admissions Testimonials

Videos

Photos

Presenting Sponsors









Platinum Sponsors











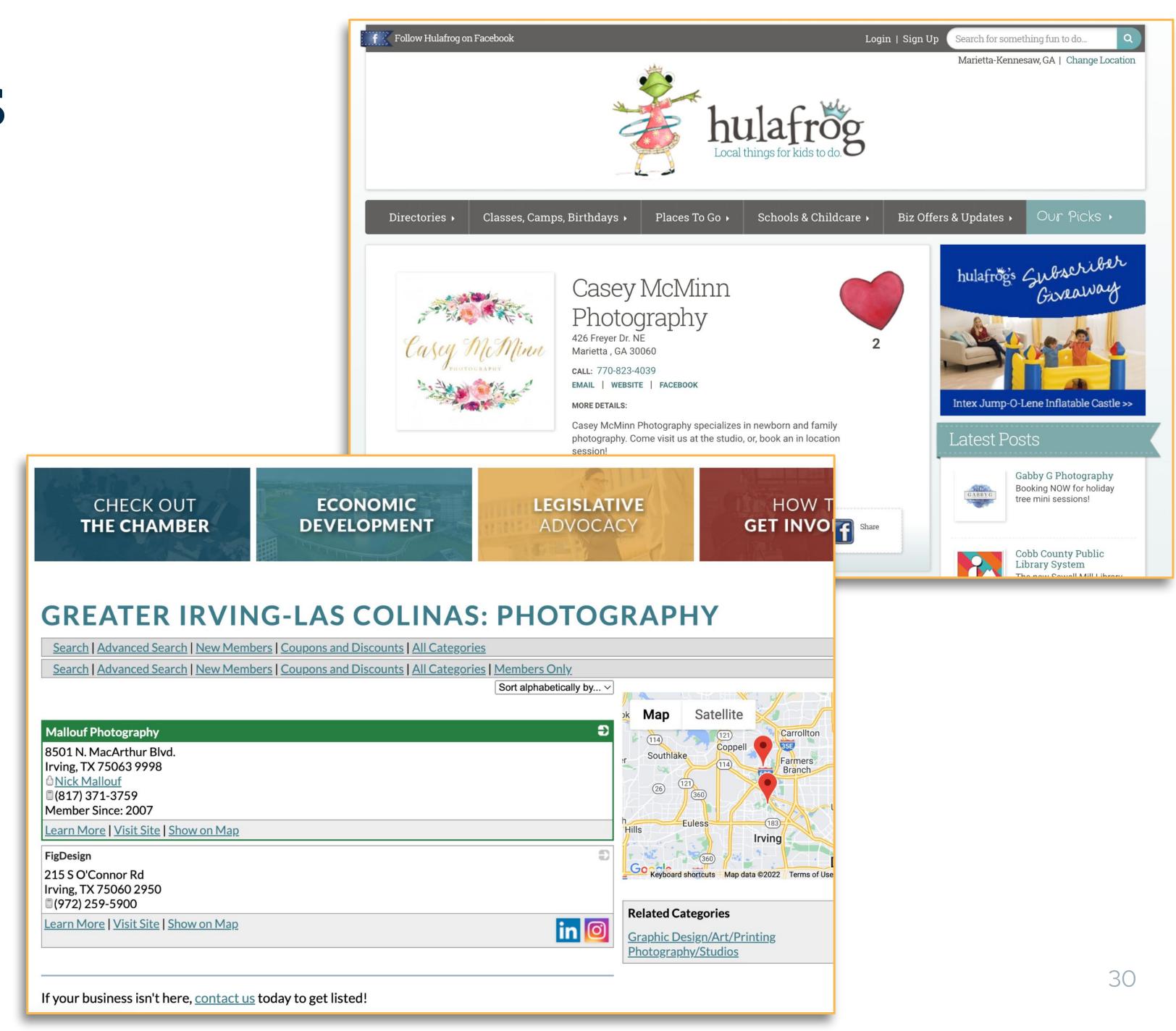






Local Directories

Find local directories or see if your local Chamber of Commerce allows directory submissions.



Partner with Other Professionals

Look for other professionals who can help promote your brand in exchange for your services. For example:

- Professional Resume Writer
- Realtors
- Hairdressers/Makeup Artists
- Professional Organizations
- Roofing Companies (think aerial photography)
- Local wedding or event venues



ONLINE SEMINARS SERVICES ABOUT CLIENT SUCCESSES BLOG LET'S TALK!

Blog - Latest News

You are here: Home / LinkedIn / Curated list of head shot photographers



Curated list of head shot photographers



A lot of my clients end up needing a new head shot while they're working with me. Since I tend to have multiple clients in major metro areas around the U.S., I decided to start curating a list of head shot photographers who do good work for business head shots-including LinkedIn photos. The intent is not to have every city on here, but I want to at least have some of the top metro areas.

The criteria I came up with for this list:

- A client, friend, or trusted business contact used the photographer and recommends them; or it's someone I know
- AND I've seen the photographer's work and believe it meets the standards I would have for a LinkedIn head shot for a client (that being said, some of these folks may specialize in business head shots more than others)

I will add to this list regularly to expand it. For the time being, please let me know if any of these existing entries need updating!

Costs

Hi! I'm Kelly Donovan



The world of job search and career advancement is changing all the time, from the latest changes on LinkedIn to new resume trends to job hunting in a pandemic. My blog is the place for information, insight, and best practices to help you land faster, earn more, and love your work!

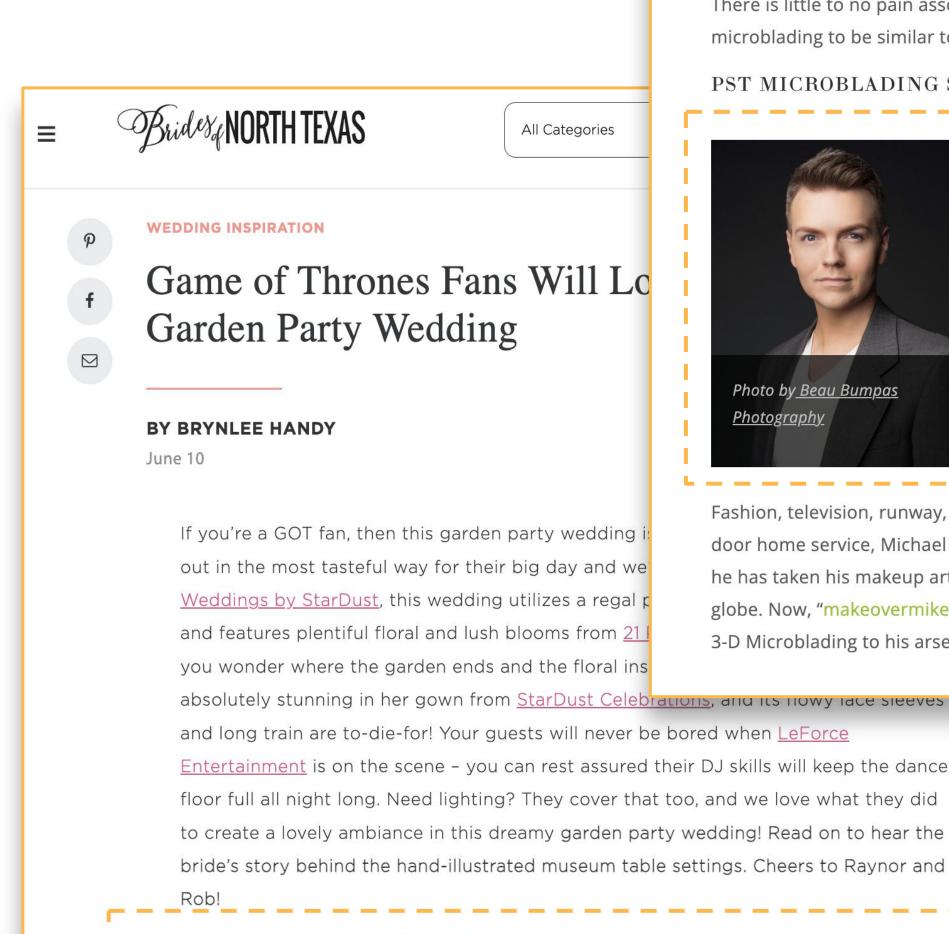
About Kelly Donovan

Kelly works with job
seekers nationwide,
primarily executives. She
has been featured on
the CBS TV show Face
the Truth, and her
career advice has been

Ask for Attribution

If you think that your work will be (or has the potential to) published online, ask for proper attribution and a link back to your website.

You can even add this as a condition in your contracts.



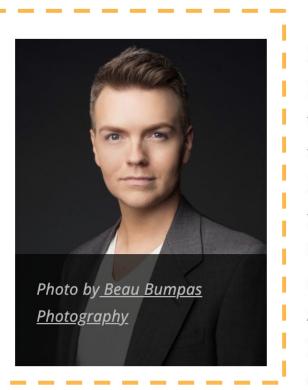
HOW LONG WILL THE RESULTS LAST?

With microblading, the pigment is placed more superficially in the skin, so results will last 6 months to a year making it an ideal treatment with this ever-changing eyebrow phenom that we are all obsessed with.

IS MICROBLADING PAINFUL?

There is little to no pain associated with microblading. Most patients describe the feeling of microblading to be similar to plucking.

PST MICROBLADING SPECIALIST, MICHAEL



Michael Moran began his makeup career while in New York City in 2000-2001 where he worked as a demonstration artist for a flagship company Tony and Tina Cosmetics. Shortly after the tragedy of 9/11, Michael moved from New York to find his home in the makeup capital of the world, Dallas Texas. Within a few months, Giorgio Armani's Celebrity Makeup Artist, Tim Quinn, recruited Michael to open the first Giorgio Armani Cosmetic retail space in Texas at North Park's Neiman Marcus. As a leader in cosmetic sales and with his own private clientele building, Michael decided to become his own "boss of beauty" and break from retail into freelance. Whether it be bridal,

Fashion, television, runway, pageants, international fitness and bikini modeling, or simply door to door home service, Michael has graced the faces of thousands and after 17 years in the industry, he has taken his makeup artistry to international status with a spectrum of clients that span the globe. Now, "makeovermike," who was recently featured on the Ellen Degeneres Show, has added 3-D Microblading to his arsenal of skills, with a certification from World Microblading Academy.

Photos // Scott Aleman Photography



Support a Cause

Find a cause to support or start your own!

photographers

YOUR FAMILY ART HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED



This story is deeply personal. Yet, for once, I am ready to lift the veil of my own family privacy...

My dear Dad, a 76-year-old man from Kyiv, at the beginning of March, bravely crossed a bridge across Dnepr on foot (!!!), in his slow steps, with only a small backpack that contained nothing but a toothbrush and an extra sweater to protect him from the freezing wintery winds. Due to the continuous Russian shelling of the city, all forms

of transportation across the river were prohibited. My father was blessed to be among the last ones to cross this bridge; the following day it was blown up by the Ukrainian army as a preventive measure to slow down the invaders...

Another crossing - the Ukrainian border - on foot, again, leaving his homeland, his heart. his life's work behind...

4 countries, 4 methods of transportation. 4 children in US, going insane with worry over hundreds of dangers...

I am not here to describe the tears we shed the moment he finally entered my home in NJ.

I am here to praise the incredible work of selfless volunteers who made this journey possible.

I am here to take my hat off to those who are evacuating eldery, women, children, pets; to the brave souls staying behind to take care of those who can't leave.

I am here to extend the same kindness to those who were not as fortunate as my Dad, who are still in danger of being brutally murdered, starved, or...

... who could tremendously benefit from any act of kindness our hearts can share.



For those whose heart is bleeding every time they open a newsfeed and hear about another atrocity perpetrated against people in Ukraine. Somebody's moms, dads. Little children. Grandparents. Stranded. Bombed. Slandered. Terrified...

We are a group of artists across the country, matching your donations to

Direct To Ukraine fundraising organization with a credit towards your family portraiture.

- How to help Ukraine with the art of your family portraiture!
- What is Direct Help For Ukraine?
- What are my gift matching options?

Fill in the form below to get more information!

Name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
What type of portraits do y	ou wish to create in our session, whom

Select			
--------	--	--	--

What size donation you wish us to match in product credit for you?

Creative Commons

Contribute your work to Creative Commons platforms like Flickr that provide their users with the option of licensing works with CC licenses.

You can also contribute to free stock photo sites like Unsplash. Reverse image search your shared images to find sites using your photos and reach out to ask for attribution (if they aren't already).





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Questions?

Q&A Time

Appendix

SEO Tools

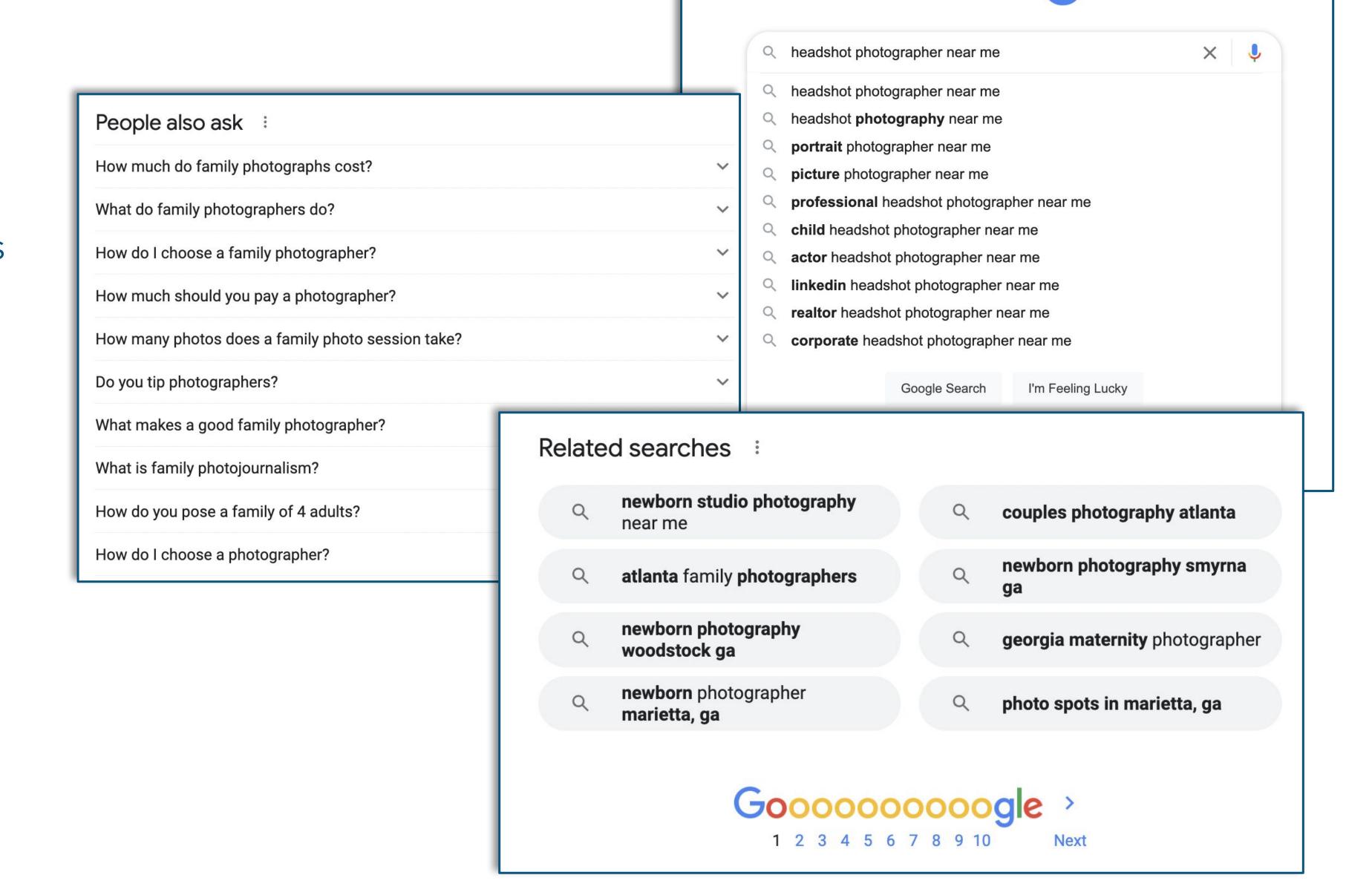
Tools to Help You Find Keywords and Track Performance

Free & Freemium Tools 0000

SERP Results

Primary Use: Keyword Research, Content Ideas

Look at the SERP results to get keyword and content ideas. Look at features like Google Auto Suggest, Related Searches, and People also ask.

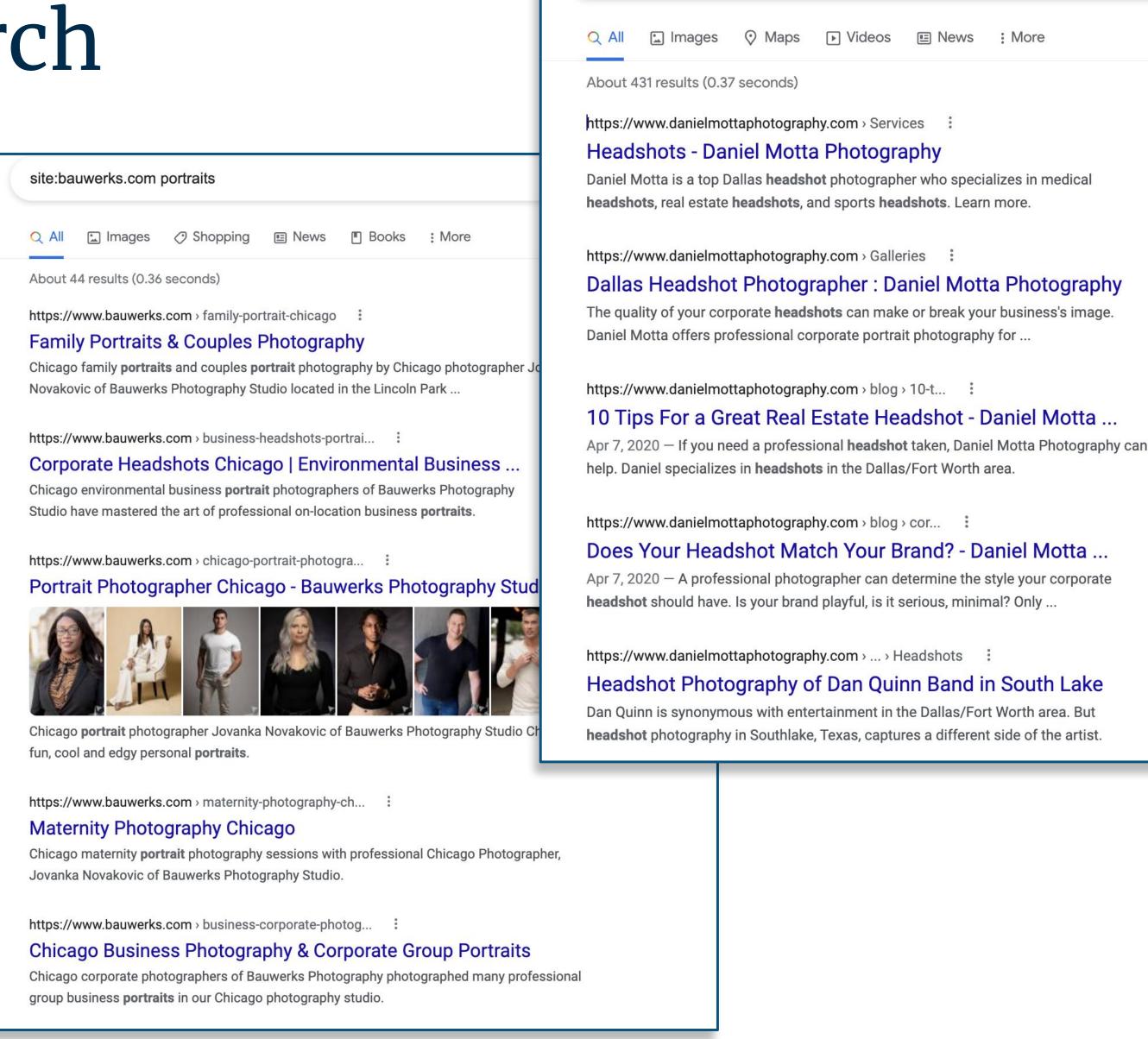


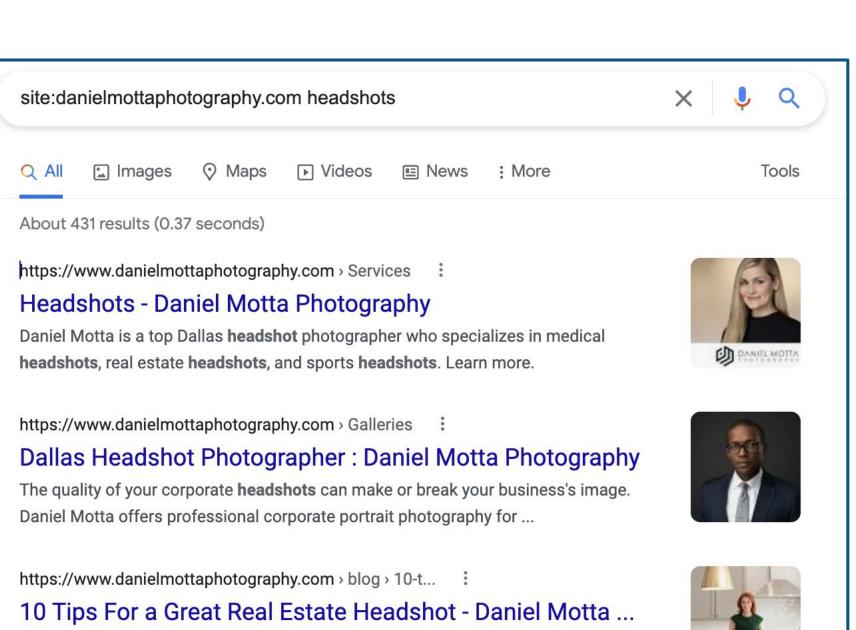
Google

Competitor Research

Primary Use: Keyword Research, Content Ideas

- Use the site search operator (site:competitordomain.com) to see how many pages from a competitor's site is indexed in Google and the type of content they are creating
- Combine with any keyword to filter results (site:competitordomain.com engagement photos)





https://www.danielmottaphotography.com > blog > cor...

Does Your Headshot Match Your Brand? - Daniel Motta ...

Apr 7, 2020 — A professional photographer can determine the style your corporate headshot should have. Is your brand playful, is it serious, minimal? Only ...

https://www.danielmottaphotography.com > ... > Headshots

Headshot Photography of Dan Quinn Band in South Lake

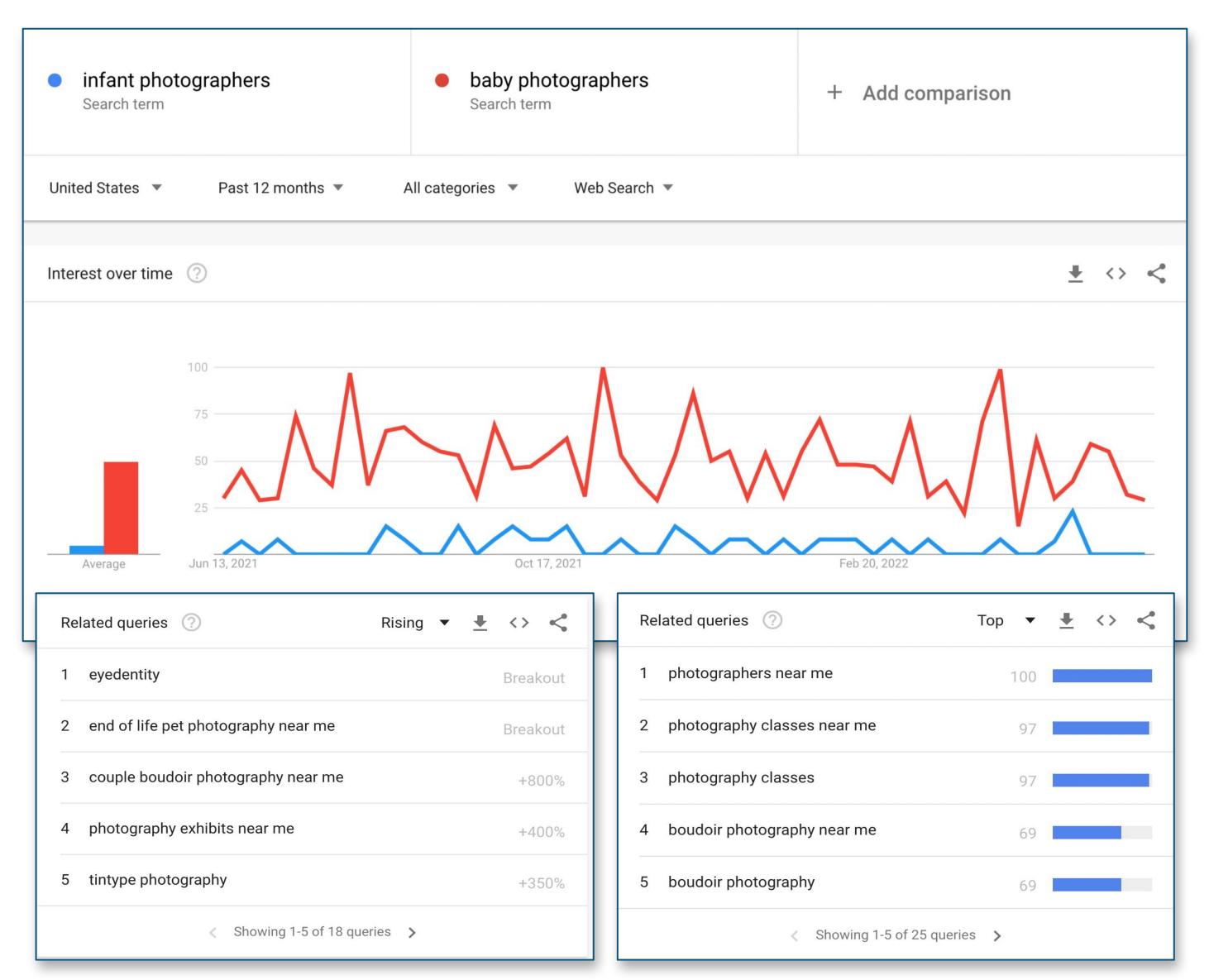
Dan Quinn is synonymous with entertainment in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. But headshot photography in Southlake, Texas, captures a different side of the artist.



Google Trends

Primary Purpose: Keyword Research

- See how search terms or topics are trending over time
- Compare different search terms or topics to each other
- Compare the same search term or topic over different time periods or locations
- See search interest by region
- See related search terms and and topics
- See rising/emerging search terms and topics



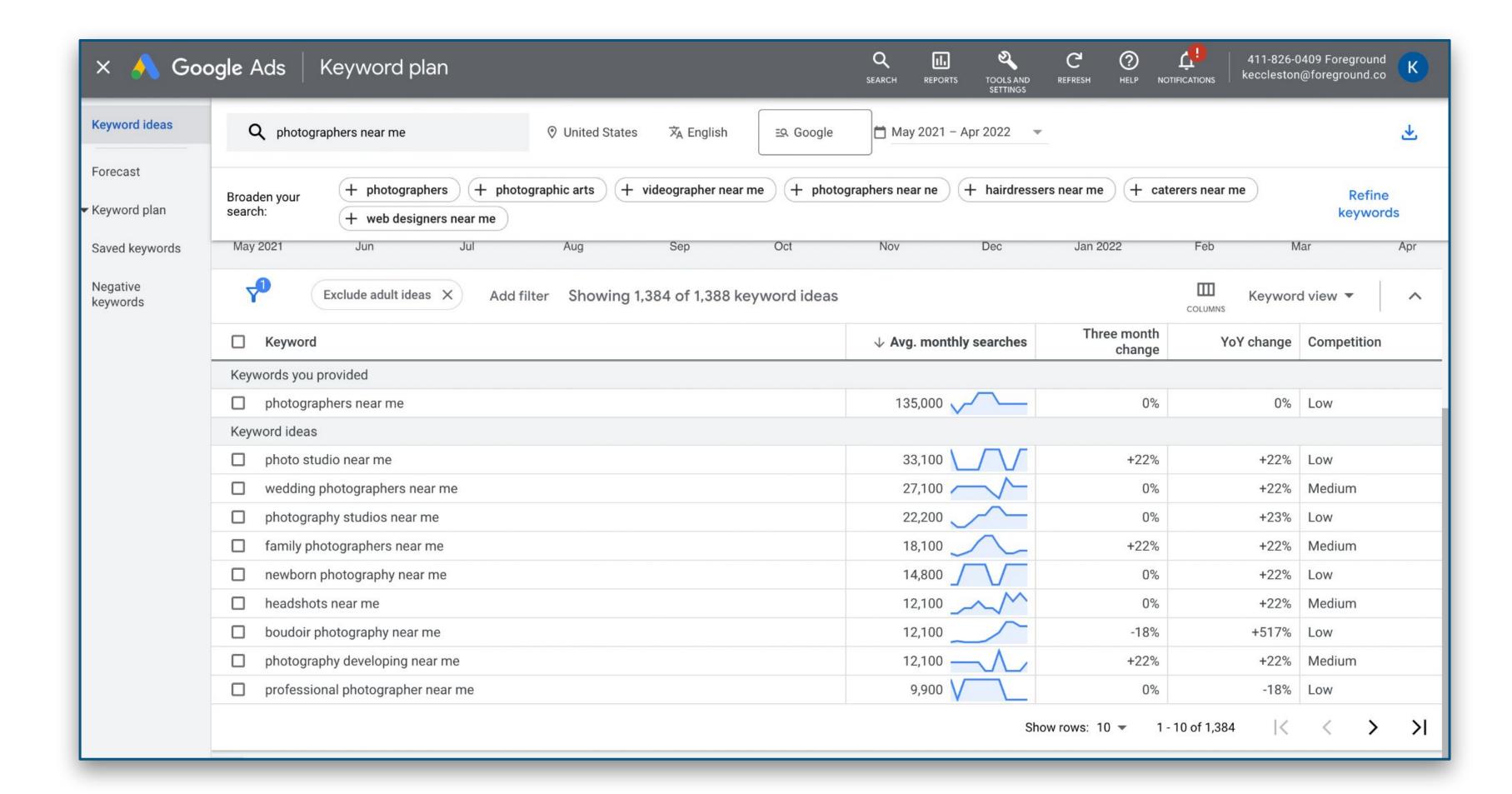
Free Tool

Google Keyword Planner

Primary Use: Keyword Research

Find keywords in Google
Keyword Planner by
adding in some of your
main keywords or entering
in a website.

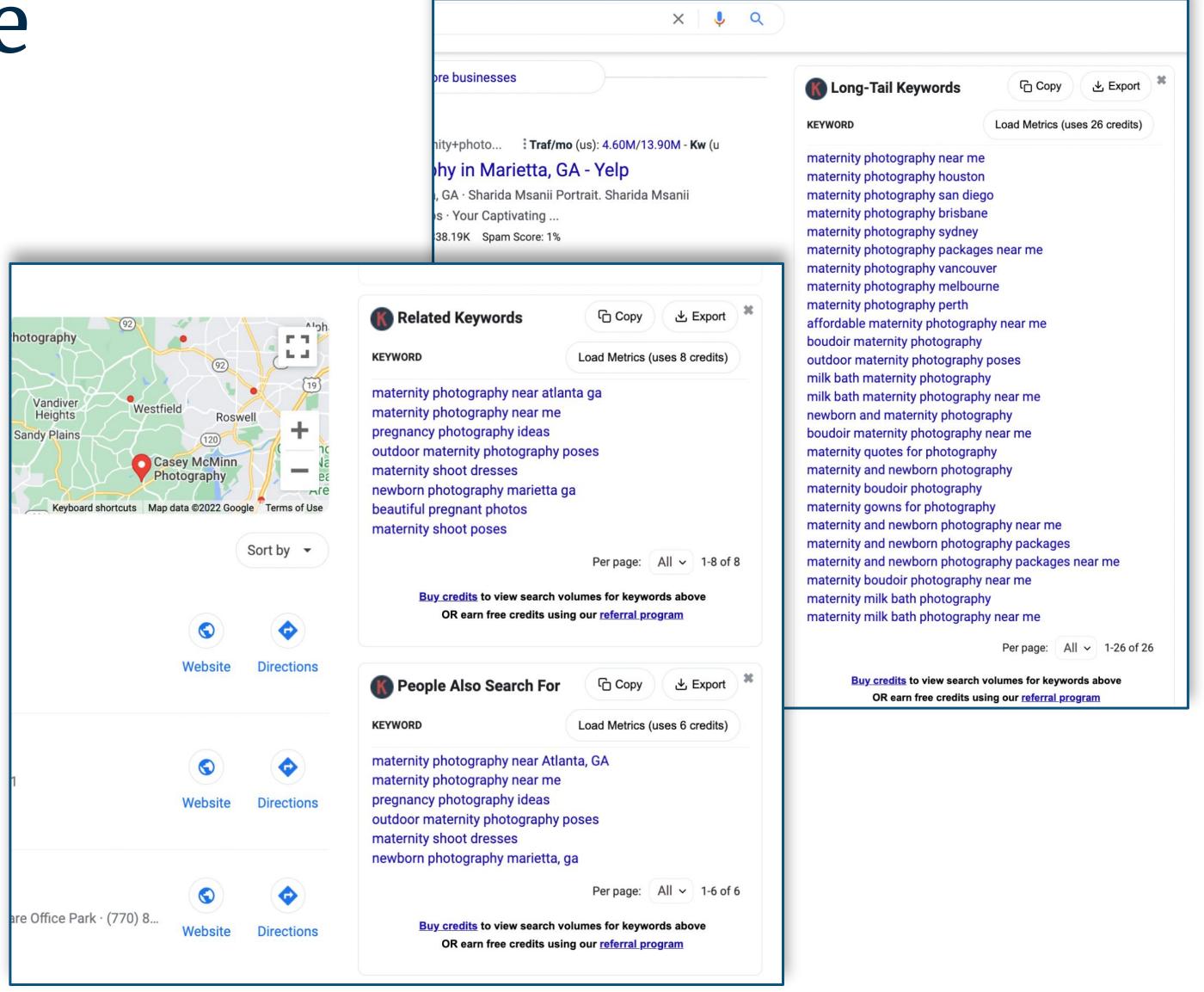
Note: If you are actively running campaigns in Google Ads, you will be given more accurate search volume data. If not, Google will only provide you with ranges (ex: 10-100).



Keywords Everywhere

Primary Purpose: Keyword Research

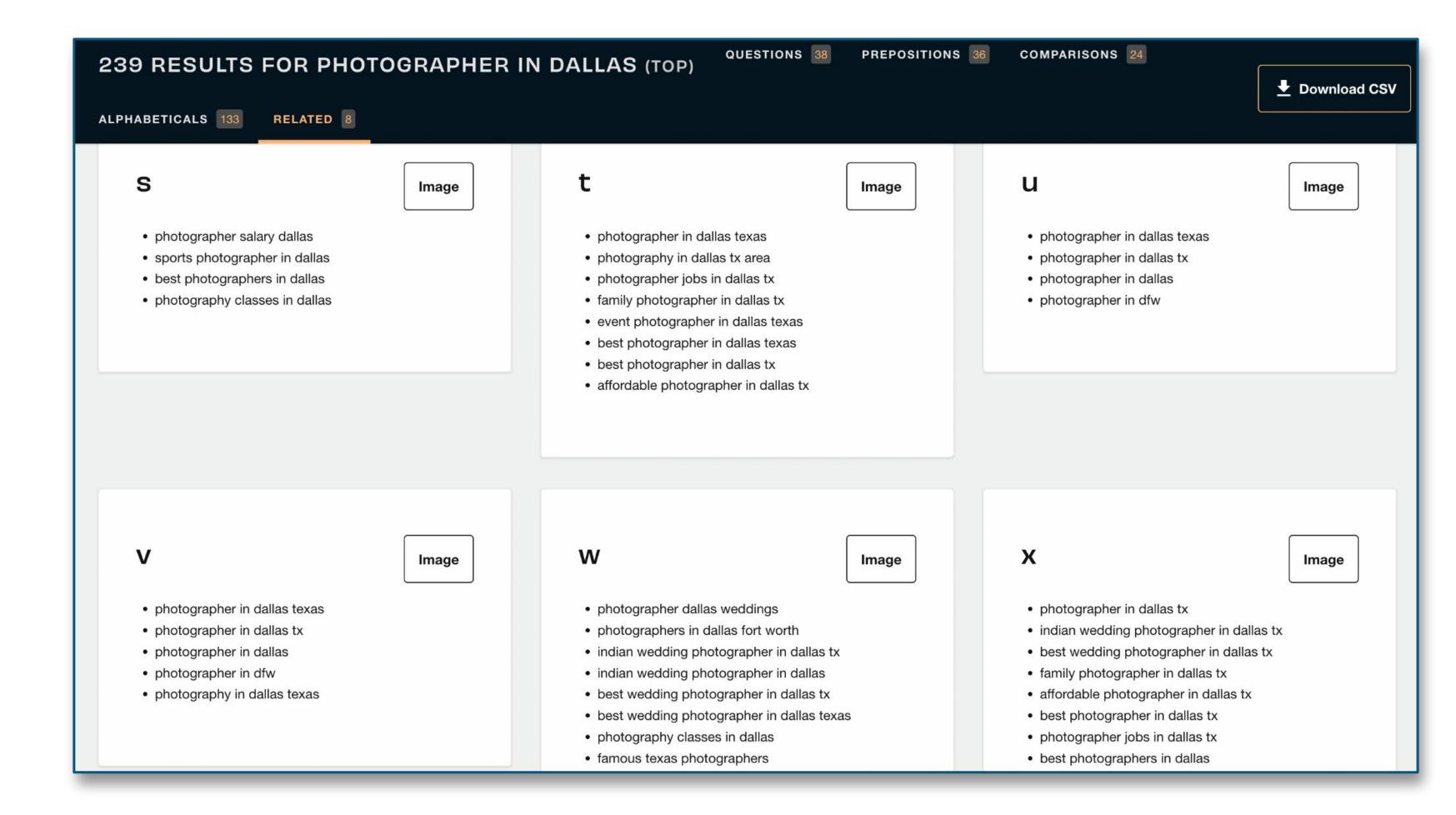
- Keywords Everywhere pulls the "People Also Search For" and "Related" keywords from Google & Bing and shows them to you with the volume metrics right inside the search pages.
- Keywords Everywhere uses Google Trends to estimate the historical monthly search volumes from 2004.
- View the top 5000 keywords any webpage or website ranks for in the top 20 Google search results, along with the estimated traffic it gets.



Answer the Public

Primary Use: Keyword Research

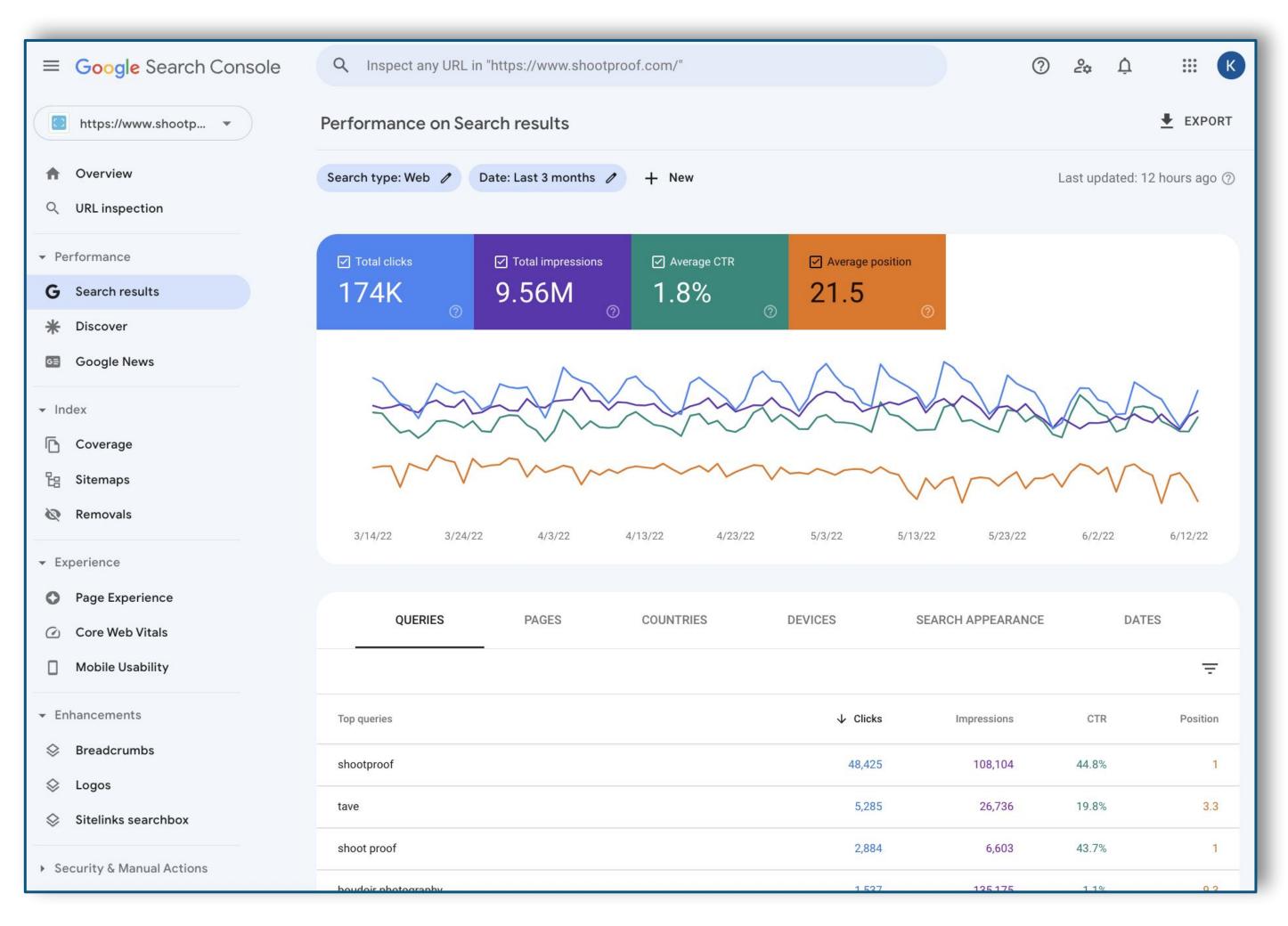
AnswerThePublic listens into autocomplete data from search engines like Google then quickly cranks out every useful phrase and question people are asking around your keyword.



Google Search Console

Primary Purpose: Measurement & Auditing, Keyword Research

- Identify search terms people are using to find your website
- Track your average ranking position over time by site, page, or keyword.
- See what percentage of people who see your listing click through to your website (CTR)
- See which pages of your site Google has indexed
- Reporting on issues Google has encountered when crawling your site

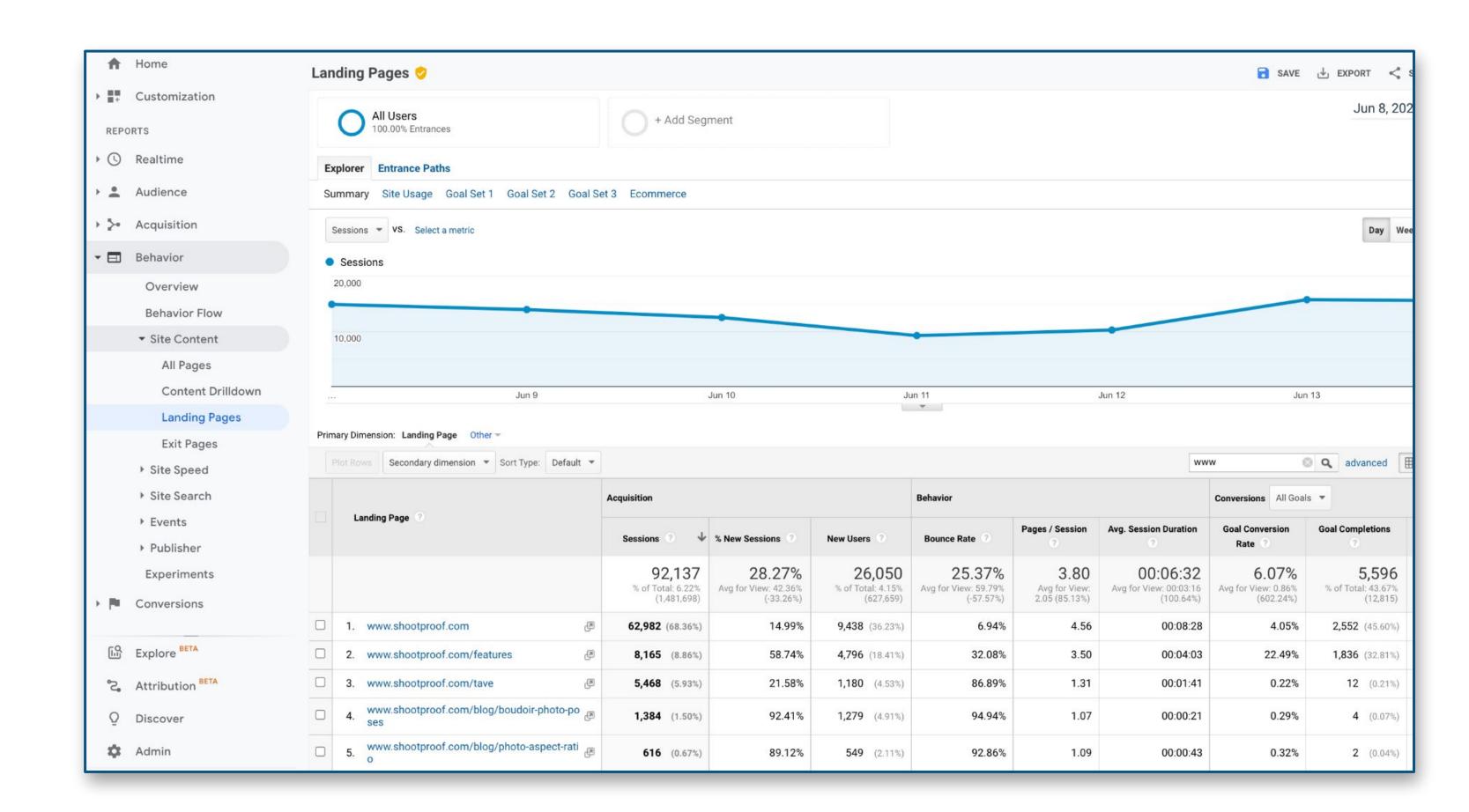


Free Tool

Google Analytics

Primary Purpose: Measurement

- Identify where traffic is coming from
- See which pages people are landing on
- Understand how people are engaging with content
- See traffic trends overtime
- Track revenue and conversions

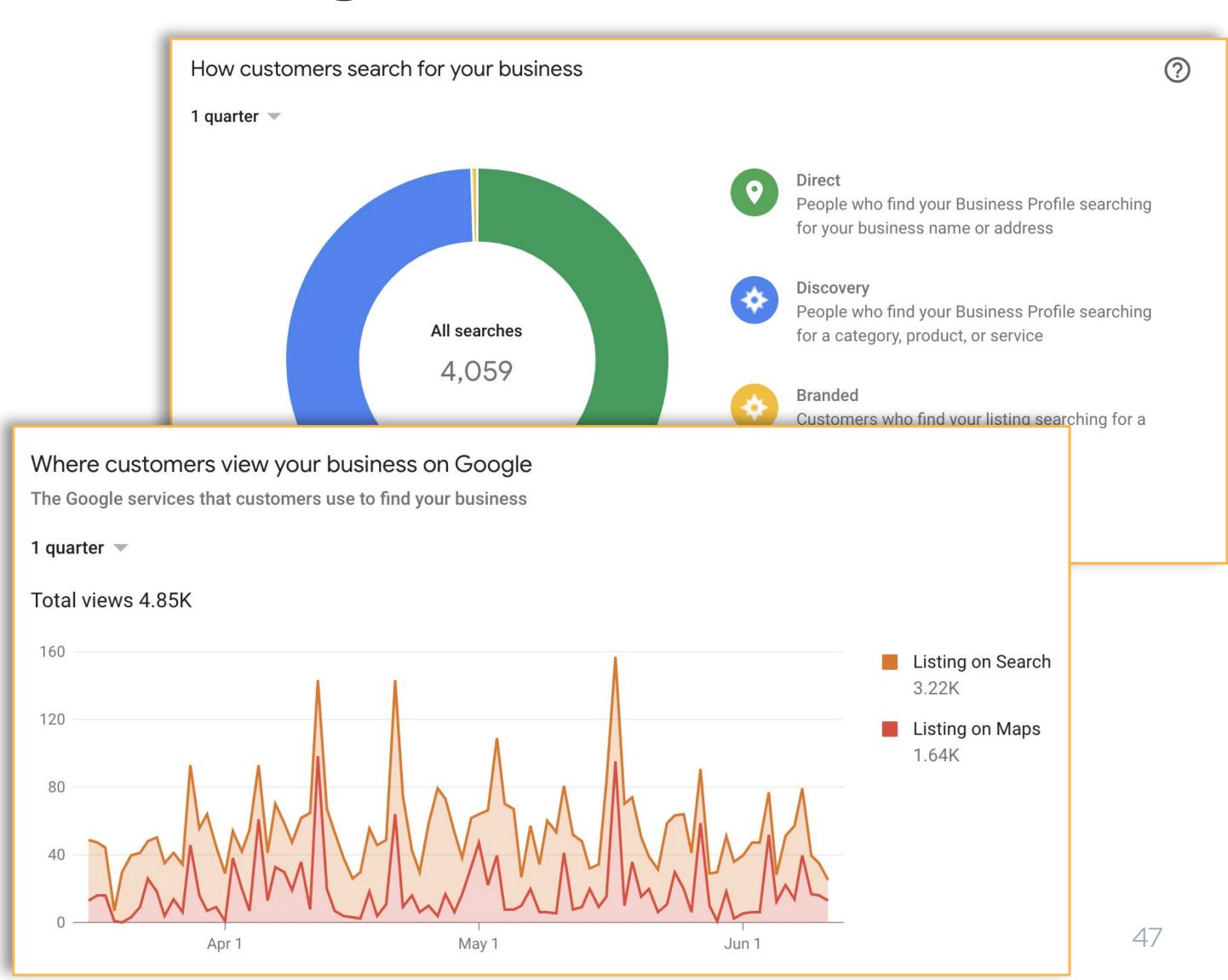


Free Tool

Google Business Profile Insights

Primary Purpose: Measurement

Use the Insights Reports in Google Business Profile Manager to see how customers find and view your business on Google in local search.

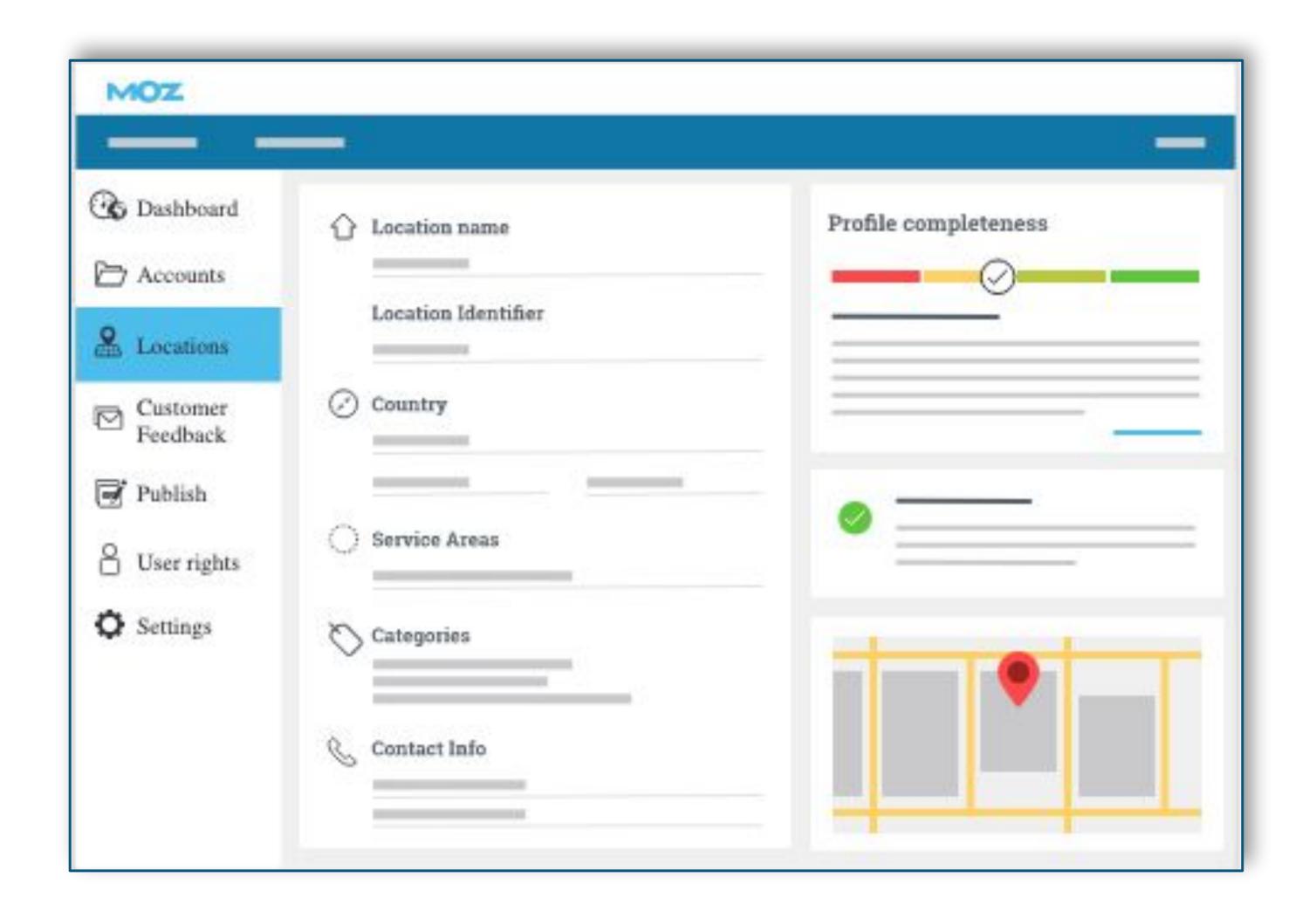


Paid Tools

Moz Local

Primary Use: Listing Management

- Keep your listings actively updated across search engines, online directories, social media, apps, and data aggregators with minimal time and effort - all from a single dashboard.
- Monitor, read, and respond to reviews on multiple sites from a single dashboard. Respond quickly to negative feedback to create a positive customer experience and retain customers.

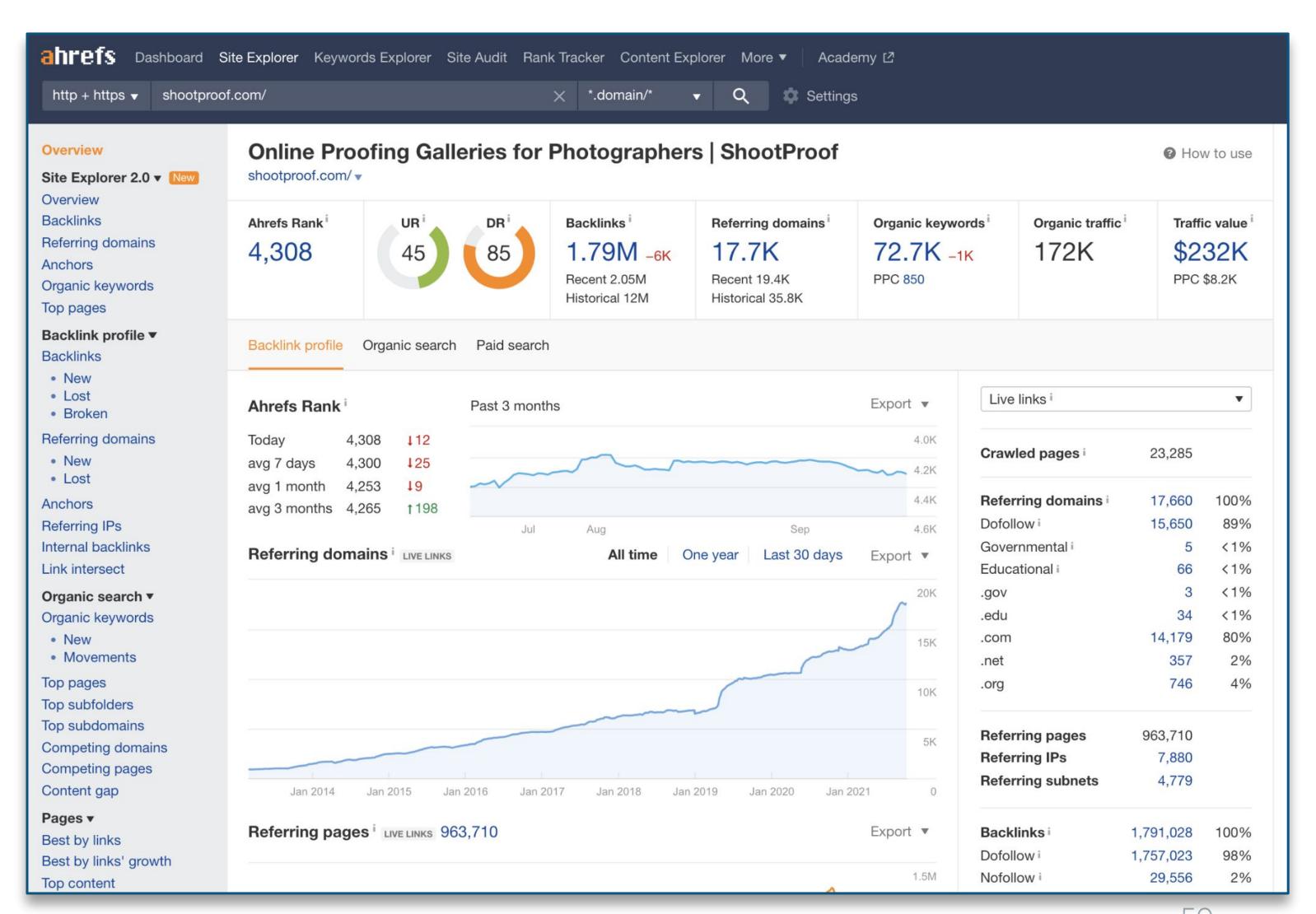


Paid Tool

Ahrefs

Primary Use: Backlink Analysis, Keyword Research

- See which pages or domains are linking to your website
- Finding broken backlinks
- Keyword research
- Competitor research
- Site audits
- Content ideas

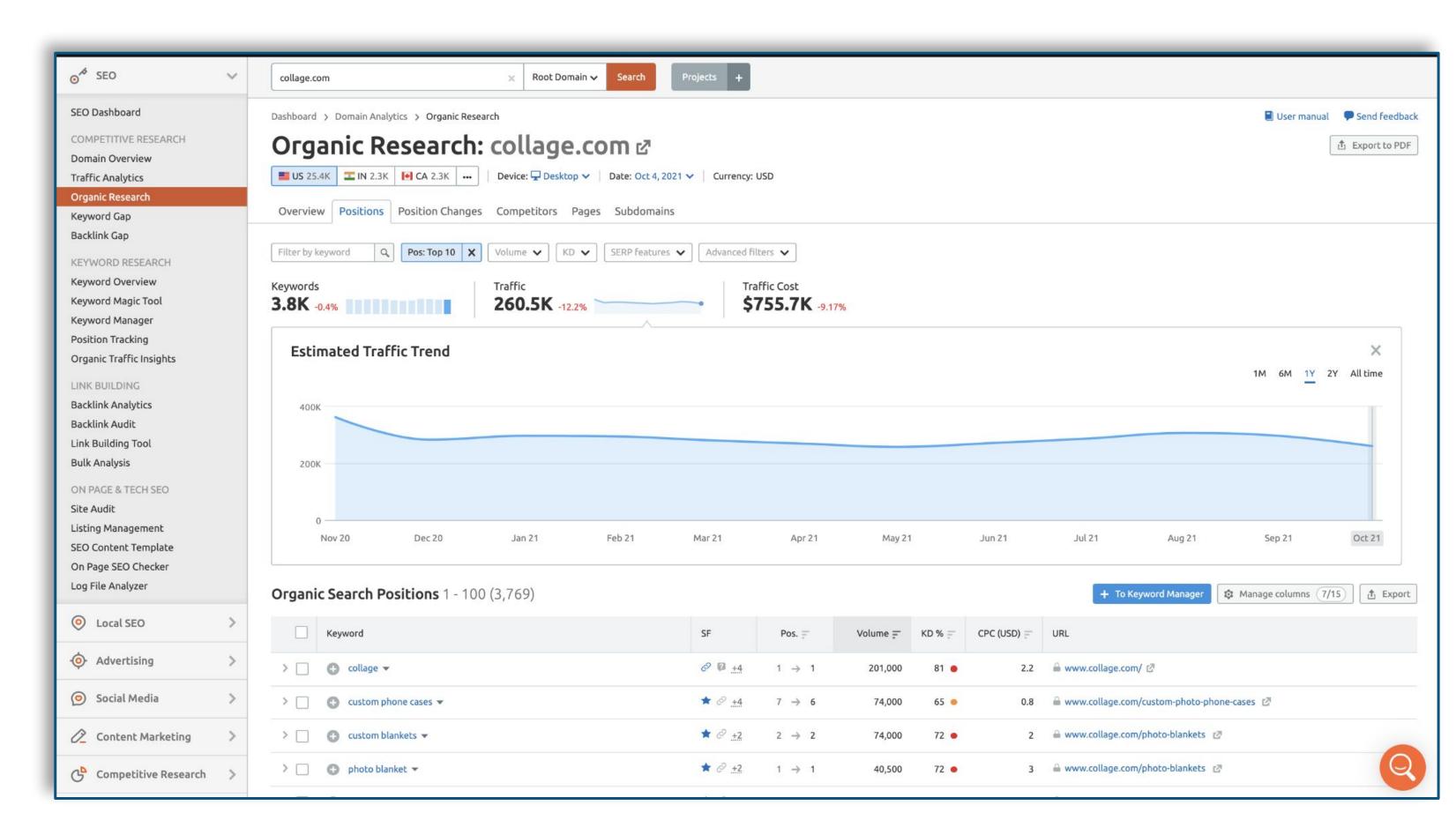


Paid Tool 50

Semrush

Primary Use: Organic Research

- See which keywords a domain or page is ranking for
- Track keyword rankings over time
- Monthly search volume estimates for search terms
- Competitor research
- ☐ Site audits
- See which sites are linking to your site
- Local listing management



Paid Tool