Navigating in IRIS

The main interface of IRIS is actually very simple and there are not many options available to you from the offset.

Upon logging in you will be presented with a page similar to that below:

1) The first area is on the upper left hand side of the page (just above your name).

   - "UCL Home" as the name implies, sends you back to the main UCL Page ([www.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ucl.ac.uk)).
   - The "IRIS" link following the “>>” will simply return you to the IRIS homepage (or log you out if there has been a period of inactivity).

2) The second area is on the same line as your name, but on the upper right hand side of the page.

   - "Log Out" as the name implies, ends your current session and returns a message that you have successfully signed out. This is of particular importance for computers that are shared with more than one individual.
The “IRIS FAQ” link takes you to the IRIS FAQ page.

The Admin link is perhaps the most important for Heads of Department and Department Administrators as it opens up the system to the following (Note: Only the said users have this type of admin privileges):

The option “Browse IRIS” will be looked at under the document “Searching in IRIS”, and “Manage Research Groups” will be looked at in an exclusive document.

“IRIS Home” will return you to the IRIS homepage & “Admin” will simply show the two options in the middle of the screen.

The “Refresh Cache” link perhaps deserves a little explanation. A good summary can be found at the following link: [http://www.refreshyourcache.com/en/cache/](http://www.refreshyourcache.com/en/cache/) and this option is primarily used by users who have Admin rights and who want to reflect a recent change made to the application (Not applicable for most users).
This is because your browser stores a lot of temporary internet files from many websites (such as preferences and passwords), as this helps improve browser load performance for data that has not changed since the last visit.

The “Refresh Cache” link will do just that, and update any stored data that may be required when the same website is loaded at a later point.

3) The third area of navigation appear upon the alternating image in the middle of the homepage:

- The need to browse Research Departments and Research Themes appeared to be prevalent enough to warrant these two quick links.

- Each produces hyperlinked lists that can be used to drill further down much like a tree/hierarchy (this will be covered in more depth under the Browse IRIS chapter).

The IRIS Department list is derived from the list of Faculties and Academic departments formally established by council (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ras/acs/governance/organisation/units)
The Departments can also be sorted alphabetically by clicking on the “By A-Z” Tab (see above).

The IRIS themes are derived from the official UCL Research Themes, which have been approved and are maintained by the Office of Vice Provost (Research) (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/themes)