Clearing the Browser Cache

Web browsers save copies of web pages in a "cache", and browsers will use the cache copy instead of retrieving the actual web page. This saves time, but it sometimes causes outdated materials to display.

"Refresh" Command

To refresh a page without loading a cached copy, press <ctrl-shift-R> or <ctrl-F5 on some browsers> on Windows computers and <⌘+Shift+R> on a Mac. [For Safari, use <⌥+⌘+R>.] The refresh command does not clear the cache, but it loads the page without using the cached copy.

Clear Cache

To actually delete the cached copy of a page, <Ctrl+Shift+Delete> on Windows or <⌘+Shift+Delete> on a Mac[1] will open a dialog that will allow you to select what is to be deleted and then confirm. For simplicity, consider installing a browser extension that clears the cache with a single button. For most situations, you do not need to delete "cookies", but if you are having problems logging into a site, it may be necessary to delete the cookies. Many browsers will allow you to selectively delete cookies for a particular website.

[1] Option (⌥) + Command (⌘) + E empties Safari's cache *if the developer features are enabled*.