

## **An Introduction to the Nesstar database at the Canadian Opinion Research Archive**

<http://www.queensu.ca/cora>

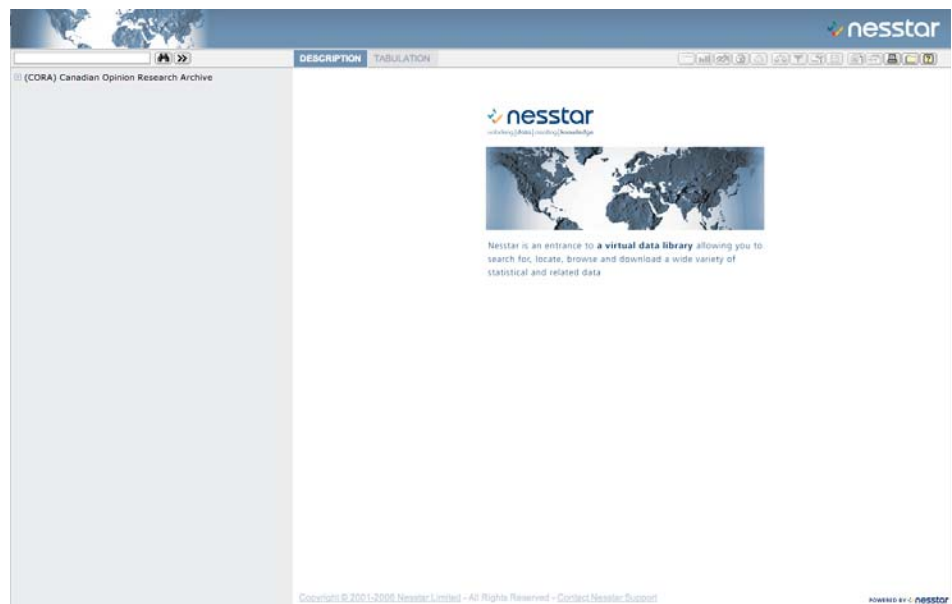
Draft, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007

The Nesstar database stores all survey data at CORA – survey results themselves, as well as meta-data about the survey, pollster, field dates, etc.

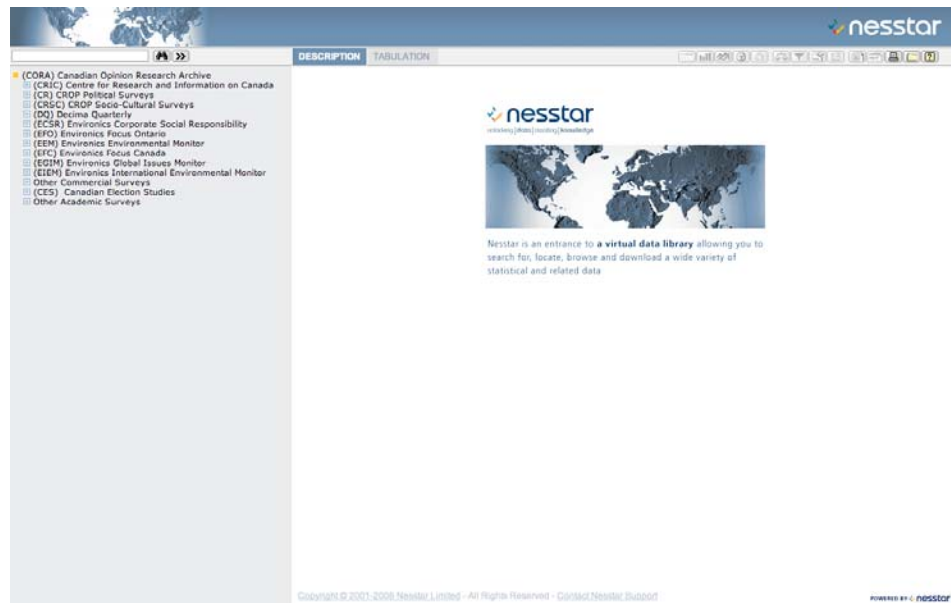
Once you have accessed the Nesstar system from the CORA website, information on the Nesstar system is available by clicking on the Nesstar link. Very detailed information on how to use the Nesstar system is available by clicking on the button with the question mark, in the upper-right corner of the Nesstar window.

This document shows one example of how to search and then get marginals for a single survey item, using the Nesstar system and the CORA databases.

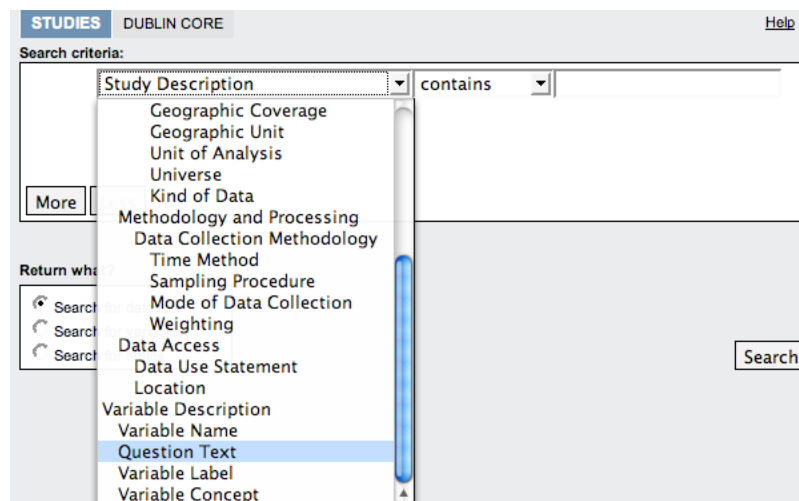
We begin with this, the page that appears when you click on the Nesstar button from the CORA website:



Clicking on the CORA link in the left window produces a drop-down menu of all polls accessible through CORA. We can see polls from CROP, Decima, and Environics, as well as the Canadian Election Studies, and other academic surveys. We can continue to use the drop-down menus here, to browse datasets and get marginals.



Or, we can use the search engine in the upper left corner. Clicking on the double arrows in the window above produces this pop-up window:



The first drop-down menu allows us to search in many different fields. Here, let's select 'Question Text', and search for questions dealing with health care spending. Note that 'Search for variables' is selected in the menu on the bottom right. This will retrieve the questions (rather than the entire survey) in which both 'health' and 'spending' are mentioned.

STUDIES

DUBLIN CORE

Help

Search criteria:

Question Text

contains

spending health

More

Less

Return what?

☐ Search for datasets

☒ Search for variables

☐ Search for tables

Search

Clicking the Search button in the bottom right of this pop-window returns us to the main page. It will take some time to search the text of all questions. When the search is completed, however, results are displayed in the left pane, as follows:

nesstar

DESCRIPTION

TABULATION

nesstar

variables | items | knowledge

Nesstar is an entrance to a virtual data library allowing you to search for, locate, browse and download a wide variety of statistical and related data.

★ (CORA) Canadian Opinion Research Archive

★ (CRIC) Centre for Research and Information on Canada

★ (CR) CROP Political Surveys

★ (CRSC) CROP Socio-Cultural Surveys

★ (DQ) Decima Quarterly

★ (ECSS) Environics Corporate Social Responsibility

★ (EFO) Environics Focus Ontario

★ (EEN) Environics Environmental Monitor

★ (EFC) Environics Focus Canada

★ (EGIM) Environics Global Issues Monitor

★ (EIEI) Environics International Environmental Monitor

★ Other Commercial Surveys

★ (CES) Canadian Election Studies

★ Other Academic Surveys

Variables found. Open folders to view:

CRS706 (CROP Political Survey 1997-98)

DQ11 (Decima Quarterly 11 September 1982)

DQ15 (Decima Quarterly 15 September 1983)

DQ23 (Decima Quarterly 23 September 1985)

DQ32 (Decima Quarterly 32 March 1988)

DQ41 (Decima Quarterly 41 March 1990)

DQ51 (Decima Quarterly 51 September 1992)

DQ57 (Decima Quarterly 57 March 1994)

EFC001 (Environics Focus Canada 2000-1)

EFC003 (Environics Focus Canada 2000-3)

EFC004 (Environics Focus Canada 2000-4)

EFC013 (Environics Focus Canada 2001-3)

EFC014 (Environics Focus Canada 2001-4)

EFC072 (Environics Focus Canada 1987-2)

EFC083 (Environics Focus Canada 1988-3)

EFC092 (Environics Focus Canada 1989-2)

EFC094 (Environics Focus Canada 1989-4)

EFC094 (Environics Focus Canada 1990-4)

EFC112 (Environics Focus Canada 1991-2)

EFC114 (Environics Focus Canada 1991-4)

EFC123 (Environics Focus Canada 1992-3)

EFC124 (Environics Focus Canada 1992-4)

EFC134 (Environics Focus Canada 1993-4)

EFC141 (Environics Focus Canada 1994-1)

EFC144 (Environics Focus Canada 1994-4)

EFC154 (Environics Focus Canada 1995-4)

EFC163 (Environics Focus Canada 1996-3)

EFC164 (Environics Focus Canada 1996-4)

EFC171 (Environics Focus Canada 1997-1)

EFC172 (Environics Focus Canada 1997-2)

EFC174 (Environics Focus Canada 1997-4)

EFC181 (Environics Focus Canada 1998-1)

EFC182 (Environics Focus Canada 1998-2)

EFC183 (Environics Focus Canada 1998-3)

EFC191 (Environics Focus Canada 1999-1)

EFC192 (Environics Focus Canada 1999-2)

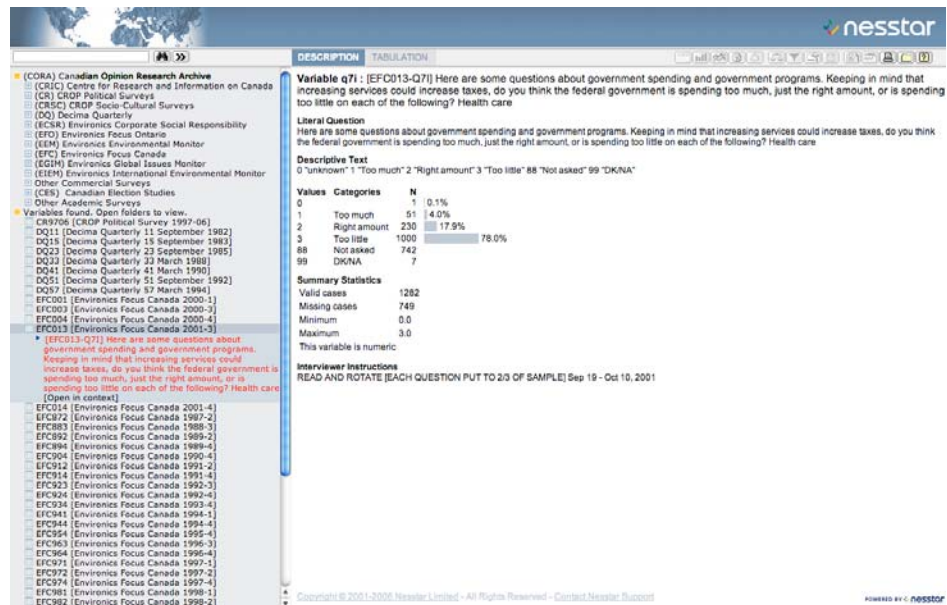
EFC193 (Environics Focus Canada 1999-3)

EFC194 (Environics Focus Canada 1999-4)

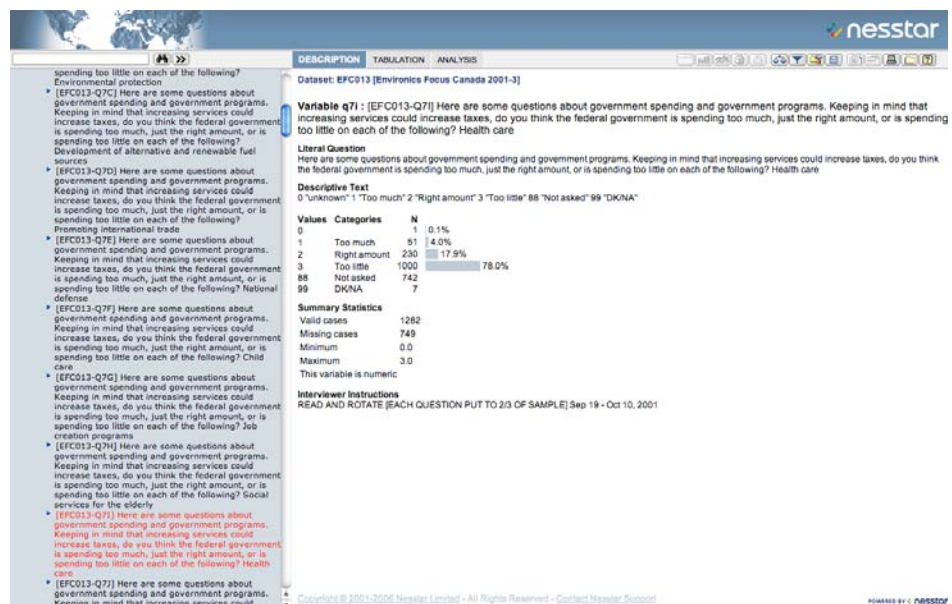
EFO002 (Environics Focus Ontario 2000-2)

EFO072 (Environics Focus Ontario 1987-2)

Clicking on any one of the survey listings will display the relevant question. Clicking on EFC013, for instance, displays a single question on health care spending. Clicking on that question then displays the marginals in the main panel, as follows:



We can look at all the results this way. Or, we can click on 'Open in content' under this question. Doing so redirects us to the entire EFC013 survey. We still have results for the health care spending question in the main window, but now we have access to all questions in the survey, listed in the left pane, as follows:



From here, we can also use the 'TABULATION' or 'ANALYSIS' buttons, to produce cross-tabs, correlations, or regression results. Here is one simple example. First, click on the 'TABULATION' button, in the top-middle of the screen above. Doing so produces the following:

The screenshot shows the Nesstar software interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for 'DESCRIPTION', 'TABULATION', and 'ANALYSIS'. The 'TABULATION' button is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, the main window is divided into two panes. The left pane contains a list of survey questions, with the first question highlighted in blue. The right pane shows a table structure for building a cross-tabulation, with columns for 'Choose 'Add to column' to place the variable here' and 'Choose 'Add to row' to place the variable here'. A tooltip is visible over the table, explaining how to populate it by selecting variables from the browse list.

Clicking on the highlighted question then produces the following menu:

The screenshot shows the Nesstar software interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for 'DESCRIPTION', 'TABULATION', and 'ANALYSIS'. The 'ANALYSIS' button is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, the main window is divided into two panes. The left pane contains a list of survey questions, with the first question highlighted in blue. A context menu is open over the first question, showing options like 'Add to row', 'Add to column', 'Add to layers', and 'Add as measure'. The right pane shows a table structure for building a cross-tabulation, with columns for 'Choose 'Add to column' to place the variable here' and 'Choose 'Add to row' to place the variable here'. A tooltip is visible over the table, explaining how to populate it by selecting variables from the browse list.



Select 'Add to row', which produces the following results:

spending too little on each of the following?  
Environmental protection  
• [EFC013-Q7C] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Development of alternative and renewable fuel sources  
• [EFC013-Q7D] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Promoting international trade  
• [EFC013-Q7E] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
National defense  
• [EFC013-Q7F] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Child care  
• [EFC013-Q7G] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Job creation programs  
• [EFC013-Q7H] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Social services for the elderly  
• [EFC013-Q7I] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Health care  
• [EFC013-Q7J] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Health care

Dataset: EFC013 [Environics Focus Canada 2001-3]

[EFC013-Q7I] Here are some...

Type

[EFC013-Q7I] Here are some...

	Code	Frequency	% of all	% of valid
[EFC013-Q7I] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following? Health care				
0	0	1	0.0	0.1
Too much	1	51	2.5	4.0
Right amount	2	230	11.3	17.9
Too little	3	1,000	49.2	78.0
Not asked	98	742	36.5	-
DKNA	99	7	0.3	-
Total		2,031	100.0	100.0

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And now, page upwards in the left window to the top, click on the second variable, Region, and 'Add to column', as follows:

EFC013 (Environics Focus Canada 2001-3)  
Metadata  
Variable Description  
• Environics Focus Canada  
• [EFC013-REGION] Region  
• [EFC013-COMMSIZE] C Add to row  
• [EFC013-GENDER] Gen Add to column  
• [EFC013-LANGINT] Lan Add to layers  
• [EFC013-Q1] In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing CANADIANS today?  
• [EFC013-Q2] In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing CANADIANS today?  
• [EFC013-Q3] Let's continue now with some questions on the economy. In your opinion, is the Canadian economy getting stronger, weaker or is it staying about the same?  
• [EFC013-Q4] Is the economy of your province getting stronger, weaker or is it staying about the same?  
• [EFC013-Q5] Considering the overall economic situation in Canada, would you say that you are...?  
• [EFC013-Q6] Considering the cost of things today, as well as your present financial situation, do you think now is a good time or a bad time to buy things you want and need?  
• [EFC013-Q7] Thinking about your personal debt load, that is, the total amount of money that you owe in mortgages, loans, and lines of credit or credit cards, are you very, somewhat, not very or not at all confident that you can manage this debt within your current household budget?  
• [EFC013-Q7A] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following? Welfare  
• [EFC013-Q7B] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Environmental protection  
• [EFC013-Q7C] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Development of alternative and renewable fuel sources  
• [EFC013-Q7D] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Promoting international trade  
• [EFC013-Q7E] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
National defense  
• [EFC013-Q7F] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Child care  
• [EFC013-Q7G] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Job creation programs  
• [EFC013-Q7H] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Social services for the elderly  
• [EFC013-Q7I] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Health care  
• [EFC013-Q7J] Here are some questions about government spending and government programs. Keeping in mind that increasing services could increase taxes, do you think the federal government is spending too much, just the right amount, or is spending too little on each of the following?  
Health care

Dataset: EFC013 [Environics Focus Canada 2001-3]

[EFC013-Q7I] Here are some...

Type

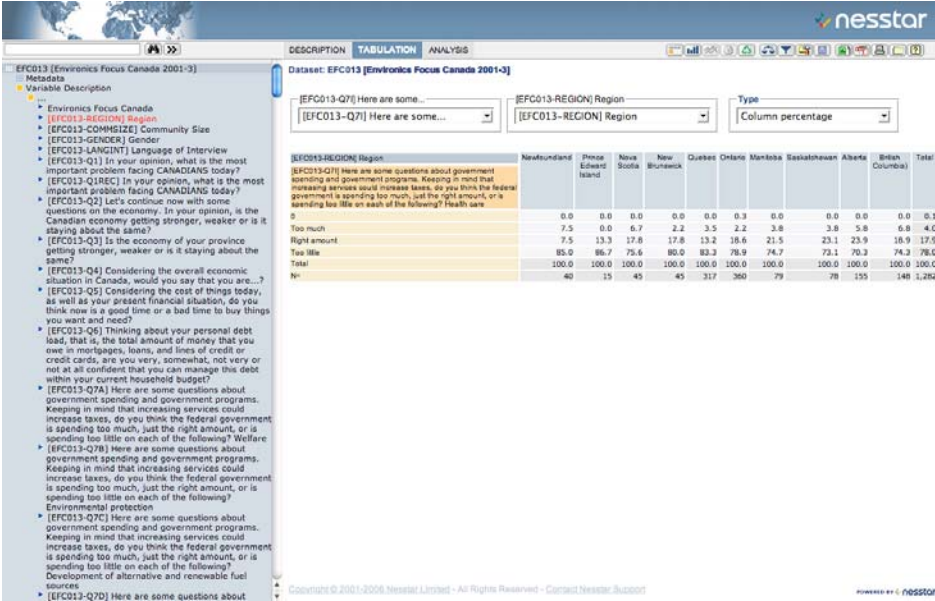
[EFC013-Q7I] Here are some...

	Code	Frequency	% of all	% of valid
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Total		2,031	100.0	100.0

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Doing so should produce the following crosstab:



This is of course just the beginning of what the Nesstar system can do. Super-column variables can be added to tables; variables can be re-coded; 'ANALYSIS' allows correlations, and multivariate OLS regression. Much more detailed instructions and help on all of this can be accessed through the question mark button on the top right of the Nesstar page.