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

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:
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:

Clicking on the highlighted question then produces the following menu:
Select ‘Add to row’, which produces the following results:

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