

## Tip #11 – The “Questions” Category

Sometimes, even the most meticulous research does not produce any results. Instead of simply writing annotations that admit “**not identified**”, TEASys (Tübingen Explanatory Annotations System) established the “**Questions**” category.

### When is this category used?

- the **source** of a quote cannot be identified
- the **real-life equivalent** of a person, event, etc. alluded to cannot be identified
- we **suspect** that a passage alludes to another text, but cannot find the source
- a passage is so **ambiguous or complex** that we are not sure whether we understand it correctly

### What information belongs in the “Questions” category?

- a description of our **problem**
- what kind of **information** do we need in order to annotate the passage?
- a list of the **works we consulted already**, so researchers do not have to do the same work twice
- **preliminary assumptions and suggestions** for research (e.g. “We could not identify this quote, but the style suggests that it is from the early modern period.”)

- Like the *Notes and Queries* Journal (Oxford), the “Questions” Category is an **appeal to all researchers** to find answers to yet unsolved questions.
- Unlike the “not identified” comment editors usually resort to, the “Questions” category is **helpful**, as readers at least learn what a passage does *not* refer to.