RESEARCH AUTOMATORS

How To: Categories Are Imported as TEXT Instead of Nodes

Survey Automator guide

How To: Categories Are Imported as TEXT Instead of Nodes

GUIDE DATA AND INTEGRATIONS

Symptom: The underlying category level (e.g., municipalities in a tree structure of Total → County → Municipality) is imported as a single line of text ("1a") instead of separate nodes.

Cause: The platform automatically flags columns with many unique values and sets them to the **TEXT** type as a safeguard—to prevent users from accidentally creating hundreds of nodes, which can slow down the project. When the column is set to **TEXT**, the entire field's content is imported as free text per respondent, not as category nodes.

Step-by-Step

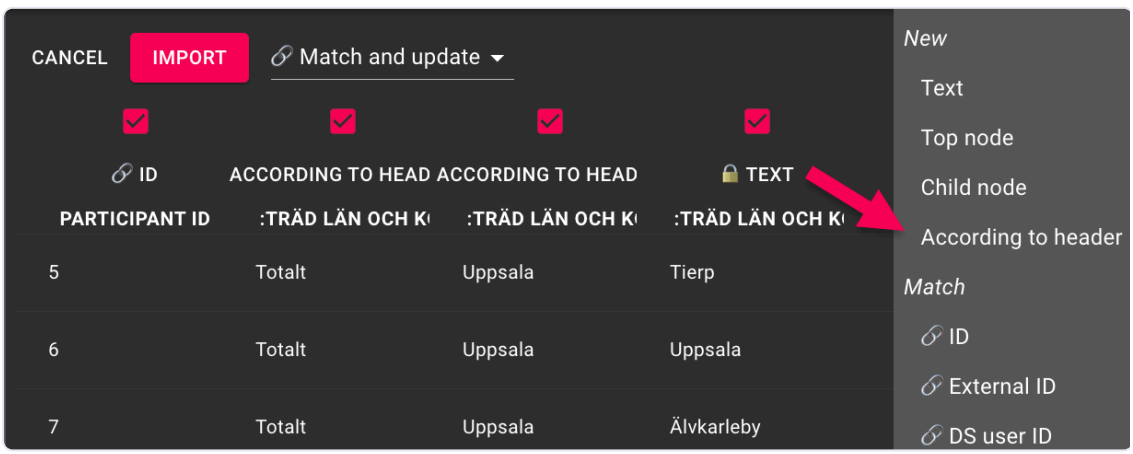
1. Check the column type in the import view

When you upload your Excel file and the mapping view appears, check the header row for each column. A column that the platform has automatically changed to TEXT is displayed with a **lock icon and the label TEXT**.

2. Change the column type to "According to header"

Click the **TEXT label** on the relevant column. A drop-down list opens with options:

Select **"According to header**."



3. Confirm the warning

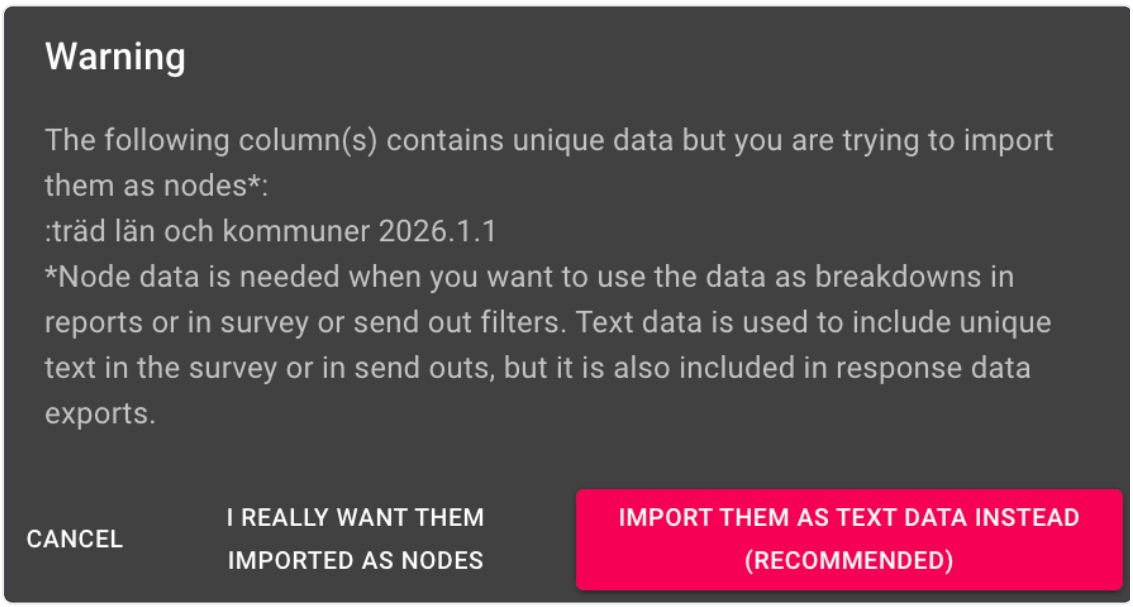
The platform displays a warning:

> *"The following column(s) contains unique data but you are trying to import them as nodes…"*

You have two options:

- **IMPORT THEM AS TEXT DATA INSTEAD (RECOMMENDED)** – keep TEXT (not what we want here)
- **I REALLY WANT THEM IMPORTED AS NODES** – import as nodes ✓

Click on **I REALLY WANT THEM IMPORTED AS NODES**.



4. Verify that the import file has all levels

For the tree to be built correctly, each level must have a column in the Excel file, including a **"Total" column** as the top row. Example for a geographic tree:

PARTICIPANT ID	:TREE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES	:TREE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.1	:TREE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.1.1
1	Total	Uppsala	Tierp
2	Total	Uppsala	Uppsala
3	Total	Uppsala	Älvkarleby

If the "Total" column is missing: add it to the Excel file before re-importing.

The latest version of this guide: https://www.researchautomators.com/guides/categories-imported-as-text/