Object: an independent physical entity that retains its identity over some interval of time. An object can be recognized by identity condition that remain stable during its lifetime, and has only spatial parts (Sowa, 2000). An object is a thing that can be “picked up and thrown” (at a suitable scale, since a planet would be considered an instance of a physical object as well). What characterizes physical objects is that they are topological wholes, they meet some unity criteria—a set of specific conditions that hold among the parts and boundaries of an entity that is considered 'whole'. The unity criteria enable one to recognize all the parts that form an individual entity, by describing it parts and boundaries, such that we know in general what is part of the object, what is not, and under what conditions the object is whole. (Guarino and Welty, 2009, Overview of Ontoclean)

Object type: categorization to specify what kind of thing is a specimen. Notes. Should indicate to a user what kind of thing they will see – a single object like a piece of rock, a preserved piece of tissue in a container, a bag containing soil, a box with pottery fragments, a bottle containing liquid or gas, a single artifact like a coin or sculpture.