Pros and Cons of Individual v Consortium Purchasing

Only you can decide
Possible Consortium Services

Resource sharing/ILL/document delivery
Shared online catalog/union catalogs
Cooperative purchasing
E-content licensing
Training and Continuing Education/Professional Development
Integrated Library Systems
Professional or leadership development

Note: Some consortia are small and have a specific purpose, like online catalog management
Issues to address

• Do the consortium’s services fit library needs?
• How is the consortium funded?
• Does price of joining fit the library budget?
• Is a costs/benefits analysis favorable to the library?
• Could the library get the same discounts on its own?
• Could the library staff negotiate licenses?
• What do other members say about the consortium? Are the services high quality?
• Is there good communication between the consortium and its members?