

Effectiveness of CALL
A research synthesis of CALL comparison studies



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In view of the need to make educational decisions about development and use of CALL, a number of researchers have called for a synthesis of findings about CALL effectiveness (Felix, 2005; Zhao, 2003; Burston, 2003). Working toward this goal, Zhao (2003) conducted a meta-analysis on CALL effectiveness in second language learning as reported in CALL journal articles published between 1997 and 2001. The analysis prompted Zhao to point out the need to go beyond a general conclusion about CALL to categories that specify effectiveness of CALL for development of particular areas of language ability in particular settings.

This presentation reports the results of a research synthesis of more than 85 studies comparing CALL and classroom instruction in second and foreign language. The studies which cover the period from 1970 through 2006 were found by a computer search of three databases (LLBA, ERIC, and Dissertation Abstracts) as well as a hand search of six journals (CALL, CALICO, LLT, ReCALL, System, and TESOL Quarterly). The results of the research synthesis will be presented by language skills and an online database containing all the studies shown. Finally, the presenters will discuss the current work on a meta-analysis of the selected studies from the database, which will compliment the findings of the research synthesis.