Part 1: How to use the PsycINFO database to find literature review articles:

Literature review articles are excellent places to start your own literature review, because they gather and synthesize the research on a topic, identify gaps, and suggest areas for future research.

To find them using PsycINFO, you first search for recent scholarly (peer-reviewed) articles on your topic. I’ve defined ‘recent’ as published within the last 10 years. You will then filter this list of results to view only the articles which are literature reviews.

*Note: Since they summarize research done by others, lit review articles are NOT primary research articles. You can choose a different methodology filter to find primary research articles in PsycINFO, e.g. qualitative research.

Putting the search command **OR** between two words or phrases tells PsycINFO to search for items that mention **either of these words/Phrases**.

Putting the search command **AND** between two words or phrases (or parts of your search, like in this example) tells PsycINFO that the search results must include this term.

NOTE about the “quotation marks” in your search:

Putting **double quote marks** around 2 or more words tells PsycINFO to match those words exactly, side-by-side in that order, with no other words in between them, e.g. “law enforcement”. I did not put quotes around the phrase use of force because that would remove useful articles that used slightly different wording, e.g. use of lethal force or use of excessive force.

Check off the Peer Reviewed search filter and use the date slider to limit your results items published in the last 10 years.

Note: the ‘Academic Journals’ and ‘Peer Reviewed’ filters in PsycINFO work the same way. Either one would limit your results to scholarly journal articles.
Part 2: How to use the PsycINFO database to find citing articles

You can use one article to find more recent articles on the same topic by seeing which articles have subsequently cited it. In PsycINFO, look for the link underneath an article saying “Times cited in this Database”. Follow that link to display the citing articles.

Since it was published in 2009, four other sources in the PsycINFO database have cited Harris’s literature review. These citations might help you build on and update Harris’s review.